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# *George Washington Day by Day*





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# GEORGE WASHINGTON DAY BY DAY







*Photographed by FRANCES B. JOHNSTON.*

MOUNT VERNON — WEST FRONT.

"THE MAN WHOM LANGUAGE CANNOT EXALT."

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# GEORGE WASHINGTON DAY BY DAY

BY

ELIZABETH BRYANT JOHNSTON

*Author of "Original Portraits of Washington,"  
"Christmas in Kentucky, 1862,"  
Etc., Etc.*



WASHINGTON, D. C.

1894

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ELIZABETH BRYANT JOHNSTON



TO  
THE CHILDREN OF MY COUNTRY  
THE ARMY WHICH WASHINGTON SAID COULD  
NEVER BE CONQUERED



## PREFACE.

**I**T has been claimed, and frequently conceded, that the world—however much it may admire the patriot, the warrior, the statesman—does not know *the man*, George Washington. No better way can be adopted for the study of the life and character of an individual than by the presentation of a direct, well-supported statement of events of that life, though, compared with historic narrative, such a work must lose in grace of composition. Acting upon this self-evident fact, the author offers to students incidents in the life of Washington on the day of their occurrence, endeavoring to bring their minds into intimate relation with events, public and personal, which show all sides of his character—from which they can draw their own conclusions and adjust their own standards. The purpose of this book is educational—such education as should spring from, flourish in, and be forever associated with, the home. As a whole, it is suggestive and intended to arouse a spirit of inquiry; it contains more than a thousand facts illustrating the daily walk and conversation of Washington. The field for a work that may be so happy as to nourish patriotism extends from ocean to ocean—from the noble pines of the North to the cotton-fields of the South. It is with the hope of leading the American youth to a direct personal acquaintance with the man to whom the world from generation to generation has given the first place in American citizenship that this book is offered. It has been a work of labor and of love.

No other country has ever possessed a representative who by all countries has been so enthusiastically appreciated. Lord Byron truly says

“Washington ’s a watchword such as ne’er  
Shall sink while there ’s an echo left to air.”

Therefore, any expression of pride we utter may be pardoned. Let us not only take pride in Washington’s memory, but let us emulate his virtues; and his greatest virtue was his sorely tried, self-forgetting, unflinching, exalted patriotism.

With the Greeks, love of country was piety. Let it become more a part of our religion, that part which rises above all theories, philosophies, and creeds, uniting us, if in nothing else, in the divine fellowship of the love of country.

There is much to encourage the young in the close study of the events in Washington's life, which show an evolution upon philosophical principles—from a boyhood loving and strong, a manhood honest and patriotic, to an old age illustrious and beloved. The youth of America who have educational advantages which Washington could not command, may develop on the same principles, the canons of which are high purpose and duty never ignored. Note Washington's first crude, ill-spelt efforts; and yet, in the years of his laborious life he became—to quote one who has studied him in detail—"the most felicitous letter-writer of the ages." His letters, it is truly said, are his most complete biography, and for that and other reasons should be placed in the hands of every American boy and girl. His evolution in military affairs was the wonder of all Europe. He had no master, was not in the beginning familiar with the dogmatic etiquette of academies, nor even with the usual routine, as is indicated by his correspondence with Governor Dinwiddie; yet he learned in the hard school of experience, and so developed that at the very opening of the struggle for Independence he gave severe rebukes to Lord Howe regarding military amenities. He never failed to yield all the courtesy the enemy could claim; he never failed to demand every iota that was his due—not for his own aggrandizement, but for the dignity of that body whose servant he was, "The Congress."

In studying the life of Washington, one thing cannot be overlooked; and that is, his reverence for law. There were many opportunities in his career when he could have exalted the military over the civil; but to none of these, save under dire pressure, did he yield. He honored civil authority in letter and in spirit, and strove to imbue his soldiers with the same principle. Though a military chieftain, he stood with uncovered head before the President of Congress; and when a grateful people wished to perpetuate him in marble, he said: "Let it be as a private citizen." A deeper reverence for law and a greater devotion to our national institutions are the lessons of the day. The very life of the nation depends on sustaining the majesty of the law, and instilling into the hearts of American children an earnest reverence for its sacred power.

This record must of necessity be a disjointed, kaleidoscopic presentation, a mosaic of events; but it is given with the hope of preserving the theme, so that the result will be a character-study. The aim will have been achieved if the youthful reader realizes the immense labor, devotion, and chief attributes of George Washington. The difficulties of collecting facts for this book and of establishing events on the day of their occurrence, cannot be appreciated. The negligence of biographers—it being so much easier to gracefully describe an event than to be exact—has caused labor, doubt, and confusion. Much good work is being accomplished in Washingtoniana, and more penetrating light thrown on "the days that tried men's souls." Hale, Ford, Conway, Baker, and Toner have

placed students of history under new and agreeable obligations by presenting the real Washington, who will forever fill the niche so long occupied by the ideal Washington. The author of "George Washington Day by Day" would do herself injustice if she failed to express earnest gratitude for the aid she has received from the rich and eminently trustworthy record of William S. Baker's "Itinerary of General Washington," and from Dr. Joseph M. Toner's conscientious, painstaking transcriptions of "Washington's Journals." To Dr. Toner, for his tenacious regard of truth and absolute adherence to text, the future biographer of Washington will owe more than to any other man; but one regrets that Dr. Toner's work is chiefly confined to Washington's youth and early manhood, and does not embrace his entire career.

Washington's life is the history of the early life of the nation; his name is linked with every eminent name and with every pivotal event of the latter half of the eighteenth century. This book was written especially for the boys and girls of our country, and if, through it, a more earnest patriotism is promoted, the writer will have received her reward—the highest to which she can aspire. The feature of utilizing it as a birthday souvenir is secondary and incidental; but, if so utilized, it will connect the birthdays of boys and girls with some essential service rendered our common country, or with some social or personal incident in the life of Washington.

E. B. J.



## ILLUSTRATIONS.

In illustrating "George Washington Day by Day," the writer has endeavored to emphasize the great principle, too often ignored, that art promotes patriotism. One of the strongest sinews binding the republic of France to-day is the love of art, which has been encouraged and protected by the Government. The selections of public buildings and headquarters have been as nearly as possible reproductions of these historic places as they appeared a century ago.

The head-bands are all original drawings in which the artist, Mr. E. H. Miller, has with skilful pencil introduced or symbolized the events in their respective months—each one a beautiful lesson in history.

The medallion on the cover is after a beautiful miniature by John Ramage which has recently been found, having been given to a connection of the family. In the back of the miniature was inserted "A lock of my dear Lady's hair"; and the monogram in gold, "G. W."

MOUNT VERNON—WEST FRONT . . . . . *Frontispiece*

MOUNT VERNON—RIVER FRONT . . . . . Opposite page 1

PHOTOGRAPHED BY FRANCES B. JOHNSTON.

In Mount Vernon, where Washington lived and where he now rests, there centers more interest than in any dwelling of the New World. It has been styled "The Mecca of America." It is more than that—it is a spot the world holds sacred through association with Washington's name, and hallowed by the love he gave it. The west side was the entrance, and was approached through a heavy woodland from the country road a mile distant. The generous lawn was Washington's pleasure: he planted the trees, still standing; planned its walks; and ornamented its mounds. On either side were large gardens, orchards, and stables. The offices, houses for various industries, and negro quarters were all visible from the hall door. The river front, with its pillared veranda facing the broad Potomac, is more beautiful and more familiar. The country is not ignorant nor unappreciative of the care given Washington's home by the "Ladies' Mount Vernon Association of the Union."

HEADQUARTERS AT VALLEY FORGE . . . . . Opposite page 17

DRAWN AFTER PHOTOGRAPH BY H. HOBERT NICHOLS.

If one could select a synonym for patient suffering, devoted patriotism, heroic manhood, "Valley Forge" would embody this sublime triune of virtue. The

headquarters of the Commander-in-chief in the modest stone farm-house of Isaac Potts, a thrifty Quaker, have been purchased and are kept in good condition by "The Centennial and Memorial Association of Valley Forge." The oath of allegiance was taken by the army at this camp, General Stirling administering it to the officers. It was here that the glad news of the French alliance cheered patriot hearts, and from here the Continentals marched to Monmouth and to victory.

## HEADQUARTERS AT MORRISTOWN . . . . . Opposite page 33

DRAWN AFTER PHOTOGRAPH BY H. HOBERT NICHOLS.

"The Washington Association of New Jersey" is the faithful custodian of the Morristown headquarters, where may be studied one of the most interesting collections of relics of the Revolution in the country. It was the commodious home of the widow of Colonel Jacob Ford, and was taken possession of by Washington in the autumn of 1779. This spot was the scene not only of heart-rending suffering, but of some of the grandest pageants of the war.

## CHRIST CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA . . . . . Opposite page 41

DRAWN BY E. H. MILLER.

This interesting old edifice, antedating the Revolution, and built of brick brought from England, has no architectural claims. A slab beside the chancel of white marble memorializes the fact of Colonel George Washington having been a vestryman of this church. A similar one is placed to the memory of General Robert E. Lee, who held the same office.

## FEDERAL HALL . . . . . Opposite page 49

DRAWN BY DE LANCEY W. GILL.

The scene enacted on the balcony of this beautiful old building, April 30, 1789, was the solemn inauguration and proclamation to the world of "a government of the people, by the people, for the people." In this stately edifice was Congress Hall, designed and ornamented by that accomplished French officer, Major L'Enfant. This has, most unhappily, not been preserved, and the change of name of the edifice to the "Sub-Treasury" is also a matter of regret. The citizens of New York have memorialized the spot by a superb statue of Washington. The centenary of the "first inauguration" was celebrated with great splendor and enthusiasm.

## HEADQUARTERS AT NEWBURG . . . . . Opposite page 65

DRAWN BY E. H. MILLER.

This quaint old Dutch homestead, the Hasbrouck House, was occupied by Washington longer than any other place during the struggle for independence;



and it is probable that if he had been called upon he would have said: "Here I most suffered; here my brave soldiers were most tried." The two years following Yorktown were a sore test, and the Newburg Addresses bear witness that the delays of Congress grew intolerable. Washington's diplomacy was, however, equal to the occasion, and his veterans justified the faith he reposed in them. But the most important service rendered at Newburg was his "Circular Letter" — the plea for Union.

## INDEPENDENCE HALL . . . . . Opposite page 81

DRAWN BY E. H. MILLER.

The drawing of Independence Hall is after an old print presenting this sacred edifice as it looked when George Washington of Virginia was chosen Commander-in-chief of the Continental army, or on that summer day when the old Liberty Bell spoke to the world with brazen tongue the sentiments so prophetically encircling its rim; or as it looked at dawn, when the voice rang from the belfry the magic words: "A bright morning, and Cornwallis taken."

## HEADQUARTERS AT CAMBRIDGE . . . . . Opposite page 97

DRAWN BY E. H. MILLER.

"The Vassall House," a handsome mansion of old colony days, was destined to become famous through two illustrious names — Washington, the founder of the nation, and Longfellow, "the poet of the people." The poet thus wrote of the warrior:

"Once, ah, once, within these walls,  
One whom memory oft recalls,  
The 'Father of his Country,' dwelt.  
And yonder meadows, broad and damp,  
The fires of the besieging camp  
Encircled with a burning belt.  
Up and down these echoing stairs,  
Heavy with the weight of cares,  
Sounded his majestic tread;  
Yes, within this very room,  
Sat he in those hours of gloom,  
Weary both in heart and head."

## THE ROGER MORRIS HOUSE . . . . . Opposite page 113

DRAWN BY MARIE LE PRINCE.

This handsome residence in Harlem was the home of Captain Roger Morris of the British army, who was wounded at Monongahela. His wife, Mary Philipse, has the credit of rejecting the suit of Colonel George Washington. This house was occupied as headquarters only a few days after the retreat from Long Island. It was doubtless down those broad steps that Nathan Hale, our martyr soldier, went on his mission to death and immortality.

## HEADQUARTERS AT TAPPAN . . . . . Opposite page 129

DRAWN BY E. H. MILLER.

The De Wint House, a low stone building, the home of a prosperous farmer, near the village of Tappan, was several times occupied by General Washington. It was here he passed bitter, bitter days realizing the cruel treachery of Arnold; here his signature sealed the fate of André; and here he wrote one of the most wonderful letters that emanated from his prolific pen, announcing to Congress the treason of Arnold.

## THE MOORE HOUSE . . . . . Opposite page 145

DRAWN AFTER PHOTOGRAPH BY H. HOBERT NICHOLS.

This small frame-house, about a mile from Yorktown, belonging to the "Widow Moore," was chosen by General Washington on October 18, 1781, as the place where the "Articles for the Surrender of the Posts of York and Gloucester" should be drawn up. The house is on Temple Farm, so called from "The Temple," an old church of which small trace remains. In its vaults were interred many notables. It is claimed that here rested the body of Governor Alexander Spotswood, the most chivalric figure of his day. He made the first important exploration of the Appalachian Range in 1716. To each of the gentlemen who accompanied him he presented a horseshoe of gold, and they were known as "The Knights of the Golden Horse Shoe." The Moore House is now owned by John Cruikshank, Esq., who receives with graceful hospitality the many pilgrims visiting the honored spot.

## PLASTER CAST OF WASHINGTON . . . . . Opposite page 153

ENGRAVED FROM THE ORIGINAL.

In selecting a portrait there was no choice; for where only one is to be presented, the standard likeness must necessarily be chosen. The plaster cast given here without the removal of a spot or a scratch, was made from life in October, 1785, by the "first statuary of the age," Jean Antoine Houdon, at Mount Vernon. This head is a national possession, and as such should be jealously cherished. When the United States Government placed the Houdon head on our foreign letter-stamp, it introduced to the world the *veritable* Washington.

## HEADQUARTERS AT CUMBERLAND, MD. . . . . Opposite page 161

DRAWN BY E. H. MILLER.

There were limited data from which to produce this, the first headquarters of Washington; but the abode of the young Virginia colonel is replete with interest. His correspondence with the authorities at Williamsburg, his frantic appeals for help to protect the panic-stricken inhabitants on the frontier, foreshadowed his labor with "the Congress" for supplies of food and clothing for the patriot army of the Revolution.

## HEADQUARTERS AT ROCKY HILL . . . . . Opposite page 169

DRAWN BY E. H. MILLER.

Rocky Hill, the last headquarters of the Revolution, is in a picturesque village four miles from Princeton. It was the home of Judge John Berrien, and was occupied by Washington a few weeks in the autumn of 1783, when summoned to appear before Congress upon the happy mission of the "Peace Establishment." In this house the Commander-in-chief wrote his farewell to the army—a farewell and a benediction.

## STATE HOUSE AND TREASURY, ANNAPOLIS, MD. Opposite page 177

DRAWN BY E. H. MILLER.

In this ancient legislative structure was enacted the last scene of the War of Independence—Washington resigning his commission. Here, before the august body whose dignity he had so religiously maintained, whose authority he had so absolutely revered, he with clean hands laid down the command eight years before conferred upon him. Small wonder that gallant Maryland cherishes the old pile! The artist was most happy to find data representing the old buildings as they stood on that eventful day.

## FAMILY VAULT, MOUNT VERNON . . . . . Opposite page 187

It was in this vault that the bodies of Washington and his wife were first laid, and here they remained till 1837. It is represented as it appeared when, in 1824, it was visited by Lafayette.







*Photographed by FRANCES B. JARRESTON*

MOUNT VERNON — RIVER FRONT.



## GEORGE WASHINGTON DAY BY DAY.

### JANUARY FIRST.

**1776** The American flag, or "Flag of the United Colonies," consisting of thirteen alternate stripes of red and white, field of blue with crosses of St. George and St. Andrew, was first unfurled. Washington wrote to the president of Congress: "We hoisted the UNION FLAG in compliment to the United Colonies. Raised on prospect hill. Lord Howe, hearing the tremendous shouting, interpreted it as a demonstration of joy over the King's speech, which they had promptly burned." A clause in the Orderly Book of the same day says: "This day giving commencement to the new army, which in every point of view is entirely continental, the General flatters himself that a laudable spirit of emulation will now take place, and pervade the whole of it."

**1777** "To Sundry Exp's paid by myself at different times & places in passing from the White plains, by the way of the Kings ferry to Fort Lee, and afterward on the Retreat of the Army thro' the Jerseys into Pennsylvania, & while there, £126.4.3. To secret services since the Army left Cambridge in April — while it lay at New York — and during its retreat as above, 1050 dollars & £284." *Washington's Account with the U. S. Government.*

**1800** In Philadelphia a "Lodge of Sorrow" was held in memory of their beloved brother George Washington by L'Amenité, a French lodge of Ancient York Masons. Simon Chaudron delivered an address which was published in French and English and widely circulated.

"He may be described as being straight as an Indian, measuring six feet two inches in his stockings, and weighing 175 pounds — when he took his seat in the H. of B. 1759. His frame is padded with well developed muscle indicating great strength. His bones and joints are large, as are his feet and hands. He is wide shouldered, but has not a deep or round chest; — is neat waisted, but is broad across the hips, and has rather long legs and arms. His head is well shaped though not large, but is gracefully poised, on a superb neck, a large and straight rather than a prominent nose; blue-gray penetrating eyes; which were widely separated and overhung by heavy brows. His face is rather long than broad, with high round cheek bones, and terminates in a good firm chin. He had a clear though rather colorless pale skin, which burns with the sun. A pleasing, benevolent, though a commanding countenance, dark brown hair, which he wears in a cue. His mouth is large and generally firmly closed, but which from time to time discloses some defective teeth. His features are regular and placid, with all the muscles of his face under perfect control."

*Captain George Mercer (Virginia).*

## JANUARY SECOND.

**1778** General Washington presented to Congress in terms of high commendation the names of two volunteer French officers, Count de Fleury and Chevalier Duplessis, asking that commissions be given them "for gallant conduct at Germantown and Brandywine."

**1782** General and Mrs. Washington and a distinguished party, as the guests of the French minister, Marquis de la Luzerne, at the Southwark Theater, Philadelphia, witnessed the presentation of "Eugénie," a French comedy, by Beaumarchais. An apotheosis of the beloved Commander was exquisitely introduced, with the inscription, "Washington, the pride of his country and terror of Britain."

**1788** The State of Georgia adopted the Federal Constitution.

**1794** President Washington sent to the Senate the names of Edmund Randolph, to succeed Jefferson as Secretary of State; Timothy Pickering, to follow Knox as Secretary of War; James McHenry, as Secretary of the Navy; and William Bradford of Pennsylvania, to replace Randolph as Attorney-General. These appointments were promptly confirmed.

"When we look at Washington, we are at once struck by seeing how in him, who represented as a military man the force of the new ideas which were at work, we have also as a thinker, as a statesman and political philosopher, the clearest example of the reason of which that force was the expression. Often the two are disunited. One man does the thinking, another man does the fighting. One man develops the idea in the closet, and another makes it forcible in the field. Rarely have the two so met in one man."

*Phillips Brooks, D. D., Bishop of Massachusetts.*

## JANUARY THIRD.

**1777** The battle of Princeton was this day fought. The Commander-in-chief, "leaving his camp fires burning" to deceive the enemy, led his troops during the night "by a round-about road," and surprised and attacked the British, gaining one of the most brilliant and important victories of the struggle for Independence. This battle secured for the General of the New World the admiration of the great military minds of Europe.

**1780** The camp at Morristown was buried in a severe snow-storm — some places fully six feet. The suffering for food and clothing by the patriot army was a matter of deep trouble and anxiety to their General. To the magistrates of New Jersey he wrote: "The present situation of the army, with respect to provisions, is the most distressing of any we have experienced since the beginning of the war. For a fortnight past the troops, both officers and men, have been almost perishing for want."

"The name of Washington is inseparably linked with a memorable epoch. He adorned this epoch by his talents and the nobility of his character, and with virtues that even envy dared not assail. History affords few examples of such renown. Great from the outset of his career, patriotic before his country became a nation, despite the passions and political resentment that desired to check his career, his fame remained imperishable. His public actions and unassuming grandeur in private life were living examples of courage, wisdom, and usefulness."

*Talleyrand (France).*



### JANUARY FOURTH.

**1758** The hardships of frontier campaigns had so reduced Washington that his friends became seriously alarmed. Colonel George Mason of Gunston Hall wrote him at Mount Vernon: "A gentleman of your station owes the care of his health and his life not only to himself and his friends, but to his country."

**1776** The Commander-in-chief wrote from Cambridge to the president of Congress, John Hancock, at Baltimore: "It is not in the pages of history, perhaps, to furnish a case like ours. To maintain a post, within musket-shot of the enemy, for six months together (without powder), and at the same time to disband one army and recruit another, within that distance of twenty odd British regiments, is more, probably, than was ever attempted."

**1796** President Washington sent to Congress "The Colors of France," presented to him as Chief Executive of the United States through Citizen Adet, French Ambassador. He also sent to Congress the address of the Ambassador, with his reply. Congress ordered these colors preserved in the archives of the Department of State.

"Born, sir, in a land of liberty, having early learned its value, having engaged in a perilous conflict to defend it; having, in a word, devoted the best years of my life to secure its permanent establishment in my own country; my anxious recollections, my sympathetic feelings, and my best wishes, are irresistibly attracted whosoever in any country I see an oppressed nation unfurl the banner of freedom."

*Washington to Pierre Auguste Adet.*

### JANUARY FIFTH.

**1777** General Washington, pushing his troops on to Morristown after the battle, reported — "The rear of the enemy's army lying not more than six miles from Princeton was up with us before our pursuit was over, but as I had the precaution to destroy the bridge over Stony Brook, they were so long retarded there as to give us time to move off in good order for this place." Colonel Leslie, a British officer who fell at Princeton, was by the order of Washington buried with the honors of war. During this engagement the American General had expressed his admiration of the way "those noble fellows fight."

**1778** The Commander-in-chief set before Congress the urgent needs of his soldiers, asking that body to attend to certain abuses in the Com'y. Dep't., saying, "The army has been fed from hand to mouth ever since Mr. Trumbull left." He also expressed gratitude for the "one month's extraordinary pay voted by Congress for their soldierly patience, fidelity and zeal in the cause of their country."

**1785** Benjamin Harrison wrote Washington "that the Assembly, without a dissenting voice, complimented you with 50 shares in the Potomac Company, and 100 in the James River Company. As this compliment is intended by your Country in commemoration of your assiduous care to promote her interests, I hope you will have no scruples in accepting the present, and thereby gratifying them in their most earnest wishes."

"Washington has shown himself both a Fabius and a Camillus. His march through our lines is acknowledged to have been a prodigy of generalship." *Horace Walpole (England).*

## JANUARY SIXTH.

**1759** Colonel Washington and Mrs. Martha Dandridge Custis were married at the bride's residence, "Whitehouse," New Kent County, Virginia, by the Rev. Dr. Mossum, rector of St. Peter's. The ceremony took place on Saturday at high noon. The bride was attired in a heavy brocaded silk interwoven with silver threads; embroidered satin petticoat, high-heeled satin shoes with buckles of brilliants, point lace ruffles. Her ornaments were pearls, necklace, earrings and bracelets. The bridegroom appeared in citizen's dress of blue cloth, the coat lined with red silk, and ornamented with silver trimmings, and the waistcoat of embroidered white satin. The shoe and knee buckles were of gold. His hair was powdered, and at his side hung a dress sword.

**1791** The President, at Southwark Theater, Philadelphia, saw Dunlap's play "The Poor Soldier." Two nights previous he had seen "The School for Scandal." The reception of the Executive at the theater was an occasion of ceremony. A guard was placed at each door, and four soldiers were in the gallery. The manager, bearing two lighted candles, in tall silver candlesticks, stood at the box door until the illustrious guest was seated.

"Dignity with ease and complacency, the gentleman and soldier look agreeably blended in him. Modesty marks every line and feature of his face. These lines of Dryden instantly occurred to me:

Mark this majestic fabric, he's a temple  
Sacred by birth and built by hands divine:  
His soul's the deity that lodges there;  
Nor is the pile unworthy of the god."

*Abigail Adams (Massachusetts), 1775.*

## JANUARY SEVENTH.

**1754** Major Washington reached Wills Creek from Fort Le Bœuf, having been two months in the Wilderness exposed to great peril. During this period he had penetrated several hundred miles of primeval forest, encountered treacherous savages, propitiated powerful chiefs, and given abundant evidence of ability, courage, and diplomacy. He had now entered a school of severe training preparing him for a most eventful career.

**1759** Colonel and Mrs. Washington attended morning service at St. Peter's Church, New Kent County, Virginia. They came in bridal state, coach and four, and a train of wedding guests, among whom were Speaker John Robinson and members of the House of Burgesses.

**1776** On Monday evening, at the Craigie House, Mrs. Washington, assisted by Mrs. John Parke Custis, received the ladies of the army, and of the city of Cambridge, unostentatiously celebrating the seventeenth anniversary of her marriage. We learn from Dorothy Dudley's quaint record of this social event that the wife of the General made a happy impression. Martha Washington was a remarkable woman. Suddenly placed in a position of eminence, she was so well poised that she never challenged criticism, nor called forth the darts of envy.

"As long as human hearts shall anywhere pant, or human tongue shall anywhere plead, for a true, rational constitutional liberty, those hearts shall enshrine the memory, and those tongues shall prolong the fame, of George Washington."

*Robert C. Winthrop (Massachusetts).*

**JANUARY EIGHTH.**

**1783** General Washington wrote Robert R. Livingston from Newburg, commenting upon the indirect way our independence had been acknowledged. "The King, I dare say, felt some severe pangs at the time he put his hand to the Letters Patent. It is not however less efficacious or pleasing on that account, and breaking the Ice is a great point gained. What office is Mr. Jefferson appointed to, that he has, you say, lately accepted? If it is that of Commissioner of Peace, I hope he will arrive too late to have any hand in it."

**1790** President Washington delivered his first annual address to Congress at New York. He came in his coach drawn by four horses, preceded by his secretaries, Colonel Humphreys and Major Jackson, on horseback; followed by his chariot containing other members of the official household. He was received by the door-keeper, and escorted to the senate-chamber, where both houses were assembled. He urged Congress to remember, "That to be prepared for war is one of the most effectual means of preserving peace." He also congratulated the country upon the recent accession to the Union of the important State of North Carolina, official information having been received of her adoption of the Constitution, November 21, 1789.

"Washington illustrated and adorned the civilization of Christianity, and furnished an example of the wisdom and perfection of its teachings which the subtlest arguments of its enemies cannot impeach. That one grand, rounded life, full-orbed with intellectual and moral glory, is worth, as the product of Christianity, more than all the dogmas of all the teachers!"

*Zebulon B. Vance (North Carolina).*

**JANUARY NINTH.**

**1780** General Washington at Morristown, writing to the gallant General Irvine, said: "Circumstanced as things are, men half starved, imperfectly clothed, riotous, and robbing the country people of their subsistence from sheer necessity, I think it scarcely possible to embrace any moment, however favorable in other respects, for visiting the enemy on Staten Island; and yet if this frost should have made a firm and solid bridge between them and us I should be unwilling, indeed I cannot relinquish the idea of attempting it."

**1782** From Philadelphia Washington wrote to Lafayette, in Paris: "The enemy have evacuated all their posts in South Carolina, and concentrated their whole force in Charleston. Wilmington is also evacuated, and North Carolina is freed from its enemies. The disaffected part of the State are suing for mercy, and executing, it is said, some of their leaders for having misguided them."

**1788** The State of Connecticut adopted the Federal Constitution.

**1790** President Washington said to that gifted Scotchwoman Mrs. Catharine Macaulay Graham: "In our progress towards political happiness my station is new, and, if I may use the expression, I walk on untrodden ground. There is scarcely any part of my conduct which may not therefore be drawn into precedent. . . . That the government, though not actually perfect, is one of the best in the world, I have little doubt."

"George Washington was a star of the first magnitude, with an orbit which is not circumscribed according to human intelligence. Whether as soldier or civilian, he is 'pinnacled dim in the intense inane,' and has no companion in glory!"

*Samuel Sullivan Cox (Ohio).*

## JANUARY TENTH.

**1778** Congress appointed Francis Dana, John Harvie, Joseph Reed, Nathaniel Folsom, Charles Carroll, and Gouverneur Morris to visit Valley Forge, to confer with Washington, and "mature a new system of arrangements for the administration of the army." Their sessions were held in "Moore Hall," a country-seat about three miles from headquarters; and they remained three months devising plans, and submitted a report to Congress which was approved.

**1783** From Newburg Washington wrote Colonel Tench Tilghman: "Mrs. Washington has received the shoes you ordered for her, and thanks you for your attention to her request. I receive with great sensibility and pleasure your assurance of affection and regard. It would be but a renewal of what I have often repeated to you, there are few men in the world to whom I am more attached by inclination than I am to you."

**1788** General Washington, writing to Marquis de Lafayette from Mount Vernon, said regarding the intention of Catharine, Empress of Russia, to gather about her scholars for the purpose of issuing a "Universal Dictionary of Languages": "To know the affinity of tongues, seems to be one step towards promoting the affinity of nations."

"I have formed as high an opinion of the powers of his mind, his moderation, his patriotism and his virtues, as I had before conceived from common report, of his military talent, and of the incalculable services which he has rendered his country." *Gerard, French Minister.*

## JANUARY ELEVENTH.

**1776** The Commander-in-chief in his appeal for active measures to Congress, then sitting in Baltimore, said: "Experience teaches us it is much easier to prevent an enemy from posting themselves than to dislodge them after they have possession."

**1781** General Washington reported to Congress: "A mutiny was excited by the non-commissioned officers and privates of the Pennsylvania line, which soon became so universal as to defy all opposition. The only favorable circumstance is their not having attempted to make a push for the enemy." A council of war to consider this calamity was held at General Heath's headquarters, West Point, when all minds were greatly relieved by the following despatch:

"I, the President of the Council of Pennsylvania, and a Committee of Congress made this day a satisfactory agreement with the mutinied troops at Trenton." *Joseph Reed.*

**1796** Washington commented upon the personal attacks made on him, saying, "Mr. Paine's letter to me, printed in this city, is disseminated with great industry"; of William Cobbett, alias Peter Porcupine, he said: "Making allowances for the asperity of an Englishman, for some of his strong and coarse expressions, and a want of official information of many facts, it is not a bad thing."

"A character of virtues, so happily tempered by one another and so wholly unalloyed by any vices, as that of Washington, is hardly to be found on the pages of history. For him it has been reserved to run the race of glory, without experiencing the smallest interruption to the brilliancy of his career."

*Charles James Fox (England).*

**JANUARY TWELFTH.**

**1777** The gallant General Hugh Mercer, of Virginia, who was mortally wounded at Princeton, died at Clarke's farm-house near the battle-field. He expired in the arms of his aide-de-camp, Major Howell Lewis, who under a flag of truce had been sent to the wounded officer, by his uncle the Commander-in-chief.

**1780** In council of war at Morristown, Washington announced his determination to take advantage of the firm ice and surprise the enemy on Staten Island. Lord Stirling was given the command, five hundred sleighs were ordered, and the date fixed for the attack. Tories in the neighborhood reported the expedition, and it had to be abandoned.

**1797** Being anxious to discover the source of the seven "Spurious letters," which had again been circulated, President Washington wrote to Benjamin Walker, Esq., to make every effort to trace them to their source. He said in conclusion: "I offer to you and Mrs. Walker the compliments of the season, and you will do me the justice to believe, they are warmer than the weather."

"George Washington has no superior. Humanity is proud of his name. He seems to have approached as near perfection as any man who ever lived. In his wonderful career we become familiar with all the struggles of the American Revolution. With a feeble soldiery, called from a population of less than three millions of people, he baffled all efforts of the fleets and armies of Great Britain, the most powerful empire upon this globe."

*Rev. John S. C. Abbott.*

**JANUARY THIRTEENTH.**

**1756** Colonel Washington placed before Governor Dinwiddie the complications arising from officers in the regular service refusing to obey the orders of their superiors in the militia. This resulted in Washington, at the request of the Virginia officers, going to Boston for the purpose of laying the matter before Governor Shirley, the commander-in-chief of the Colonial forces.

**1777** General Washington wrote to General Lord Howe: "I am again under the necessity of remonstrating to you upon the treatment which our prisoners continue to receive in New York. Those, who have lately been sent out, give the most shocking account of their barbarous usage, which their miserable emaciated countenances confirm. Most of the prisoners who have returned home, have informed me that they were offered better treatment, provided they would enlist into your service. *This*," he added, with the dignity of a veteran commander, "*I believe, is unprecedented.*"

**1791** The President wrote Governor Beverly Randolph in regard to his personal indorsement of the Virginia Legislature establishing a certain woolen manufactory: "I am told that it is felony to export the machines, which it is probable the artist contemplates to bring with him, and it certainly would not carry an aspect very favorable to the dignity of the United States for the President, in a clandestine manner, to entice the subjects of another nation to violate its laws."

"Your Hero (Washington) without the lictor of Cincinnatus was obeyed, conquers, and retires without the foul stain of blood."

*Dr. Lettsom (London), of the Society of Friends.*

**JANUARY FOURTEENTH.**

**1777** The Commander-in-chief instructed his secretary, that "particular attention should be given to the surgeon sent by Lord Cornwallis to take charge of their wounded at Princeton. He will more than probably convey a true account of your numbers, which ought to be a good deal magnified." General Mercer's funeral took place in Philadelphia. This brilliant patriot was followed to his tomb by thousands, foes vying with friends in rendering him homage.

**1783** Washington from Newburg gave the following advice to his nephew Bushrod, afterward associate justice of the Supreme Court: "Remember that it is not the mere study of the law, but to become eminent in the profession of it, which is to yield honor and profit. The first was your choice; let the second be your ambition, and that dissipation is incompatible with both; that the company in which you will improve most, will be least expensive to you; yet I am not such a stoic as to suppose that you should always be in company with Senators and philosophers; but of the young and juvenile kind let me advise you to be choice. It is easy to make acquaintances but very difficult to shake them off. Be courteous to all but intimate with few."

"There is no nation so lost to a sense of humanity as not to revere his name. The Heathen will drop a tear to his memory. The tawny tribes beyond the western mountains will pierce the heavens with their cry of grief, and bow with reverence to every portrait which bears the name of Washington."

*Timothy Alden (New Hampshire), 1800.*

**JANUARY FIFTEENTH.**

**1776** The Commander-in-chief, discouraged by delays and sectional strife, said: "I have often thought how much happier I should have been, if, instead of accepting the command under such circumstances, I had taken my musket on my shoulder and entered the ranks, or if I could have justified the measure to posterity, and my own conscience, had retired to the back country and lived in a wigwam."

**1781** General Washington wrote from New Windsor to Mrs. Sarah Bache thanking her, and the ladies of "The Philadelphia Association," for soldiers' clothing, one item of which was two thousand and five shirts. He said: "The value of the donation will be greatly enhanced by a consideration of the hands by which it was made and presented. Amidst all the distresses and sufferings of the army, from whatever sources they have arisen, it must be a consolation to our virtuous countrywomen, that they have never withheld their most zealous efforts to support the cause." Mrs. Sarah Franklin Bache was associated in patriotic charity with the estimable and lamented Esther Reed, wife of Colonel Joseph Reed, so long secretary of Washington.

"My fine crabtree walking-stick, with a gold head curiously wrought in the form of the cap of Liberty, I give to my friend and the friend of mankind, General Washington. If it were a sceptre he has merited it; and would become it. It was a present to me from that excellent woman Madame De Forbach—the Dowager Duchess of Deux Ponts, connected with some verses which should go with it."

*Franklin's Will—Codicil.*

**JANUARY SIXTEENTH.**

**1775** In Washington's diary this entry is made: "Went up to Alexandria to a review of the Independent Company, and to choose a Com<sup>ee</sup> for the county of Fairfax." Ten days later is recorded, "Went up to Alexandria to an intended meeting of the Trustee's, none met, stayed in Alexandria al-night-& bo<sup>d</sup> a parcel of servants."

**1791** The President wrote to Edward Rutledge that, soon after the adjournment of Congress on March 4th, "I shall most assuredly indulge myself in a tour through the Southern States. It was among my first determinations when I entered upon the duties of my present station to visit every part of the United States in the course of my administration of the Government, provided my health and circumstances would admit of it."

**1795** President Washington wrote a long letter to his adopted daughter, Nellie Parke Custis, who was on a visit to her mother, Mrs. David Stuart of Virginia, in reply to a description of her first ball, which embraced some tender confidences: "Love is said to be an involuntary passion, and it is therefore contended, that it cannot be resisted. This is true in part only, for like all things else; when nourished and supplied plentifully with aliment, it is rapid in its progress; but let these be withdrawn, it may be stifled in its birth, or much stunted in its growth."

"Never perhaps was the memory of man so honored; for never had there lived before a public man whose virtues only can be remembered."

*Joseph Gales (National Intelligencer, Washington).*

**JANUARY SEVENTEENTH.**

**1754** Major Washington arrived at Williamsburg, and from rough notes, taken in the Wilderness, wrote his entire "Journal to the Ohio." This remarkable record, giving in detail his mission to Fort le Boeuf, was read the following day before the Governor and Council in obedience to the command of Dinwiddie, who sent printed copies to the "Lords of the Board of Trade, London," and to the governors of Maryland and Pennsylvania. The young officer wrote his brother: "I traveled ten days through one continued Series of cold wet Weather stopping at Belvoir one day to take necessary Rest."

**1776** The Commander-in-chief at Cambridge, after much consideration, prepared minute instructions regulating pay of the army. They were delivered the following day to General Sullivan for his guidance and immediate use. In council of war it was determined that the General should request of the neighboring colonies thirteen regiments of militia, that would serve until April first, to justify an attack on Boston.

**1779** Mrs. Sarah Bache wrote to her father Benjamin Franklin in Paris, that at a party given on his birthday (Jan. 6th. O. S.) by Mr. Samuel Powel of Philadelphia, she had danced with General Washington, who said it was also their anniversary, as he and Mrs. Washington had been married twenty years that day (N. S.).

"There were men in his day who were his superior in some things; but, taken as a whole, he had no superior and no equal. The age needed the man, and the man came to meet the wants of the age."

*The Independent (New York).*

**JANUARY EIGHTEENTH.**

**1773** The Commander-in-chief, upon receiving the melancholy intelligence of the fall of "the brave Montgomery," and the repulse of our troops in their attempt against the city of Quebec, called a council of general officers of the army "to determine upon the necessary steps to be taken upon the alarming occasion." John Adams, then at Watertown, was present at Washington's request.

**1777** The Commander-in-chief at Morristown, in reviewing the situation General Schuyler, said: "The enemy, by two lucky strokes at Trenton and Princeton, have been obliged to abandon every part of New Jersey, except Brunswick and Amboy; I hope by preventing them from sending their foraging parties to any great distance to reduce them to the utmost distress, in the course of this Winter."

**1779** General Washington attended the banquet given by Congress at Philadelphia, in celebration of the French alliance. During this visit, at the request of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania, he sat to Captain Charles Wilson Peale for a portrait. This picture when finished was hung in the council-chamber, and two years afterward a mob destroyed it and other valuable property of the city.

"We have not been unattentive observers of the career of this illustrious man, from the period of his assuming command of the revolutionary army of America; and we do not hesitate to pronounce him the greatest character in modern times; and perhaps, with all the embellishments of fabulous and partial historians, there is scarcely one in the annals of antiquity that will bear a comparison."

*Marquis Louis de Fontanes (Temple of Mars, Paris), 1800.*

**JANUARY NINETEENTH.**

**1784** From the close of the war to the meeting of the Constitutional Convention was a crucial period. Washington's anxiety was great; but for every one he had a word of comfort. To Benjamin Harrison he wrote: "I believe all things will come right at last, but like a young heir, come a little prematurely to a large inheritance, we shall wanton and run riot until we have brought our reputation to the brink of ruin."

**1791** In the President's address to the chiefs of the Seneca Nation, whom he received at the Executive Mansion, Philadelphia, he said: "You may, when you return from this city to your own country, mention to your nation my desire to promote their prosperity, by teaching the use of domestic animals, and the manner that the whites plough and raise so much corn; and if it would be agreeable to the nation at large to learn these arts, I will find some means of teaching them at such places within their country as shall be agreed upon."

**1797** The injuries sustained by American commerce in the West Indies, from the cruisers and agents of the French Republic, having produced an irritating and unsatisfactory relation between the two governments, the President sent a message to Congress, in which he gave a careful review of these transactions, and the policy he wished this government to pursue.

"In my judgment the principles announced by Washington in 1797 are the true principles for to-day; what was wise then is wise now."

*Henry W. Hilliard (Alabama).*



# JANUARY TWENTIETH.

**1784** In answer to the address of "The Yankee Club," Stewardstown, County Tyrone, Ireland, Washington wrote from Mount Vernon: "If in the course of our successful contest, any good consequences have resulted to the oppressed Kingdom of Ireland, it will afford a new source of felicitation to all who respect the interest of humanity."

**1793** Washington wrote to Henry Lee referring to his reelection by a full vote of the Electoral College: "A mind must be insensible indeed, not to be gratefully impressed by so distinguished and honorable a testimony of public approbation and confidence; and as I suffered my name to be contemplated on this occasion, it is more than probable I should, for a moment, have experienced chagrin, if my re-election had not been by a pretty respectable vote."

**1800** The last will and testament of George Washington was filed at the Fairfax County court, by his executors, Lawrence Lewis, Samuel and George Steptoe Washington, attested by Charles Little Simms and Ludwell Lee. A clause in this document reads as follows: "Upon the decease of my wife, it is my will and desire that all the slaves which I hold in my own right shall have their freedom."

"The majestic story of that life — whether told in the pages of Marshall or Sparks, of Irving or Bancroft, or through the eloquent utterances of Ames or Webster, or Everett or Winthrop, or the matchless poetry of Lowell, or the verse of Byron — never grows old.

"We love to hear again what the great Frederick and Napoleon, what Erskine and Fox and Brougham and Talleyrand and Fontanes and Guizot said of him, and how crape enshrouded the standards of France, and the flags upon the victorious ships of England fell fluttering to half-mast at the tidings of his death."

*Melville W. Fuller, Chief Justice.*

# JANUARY TWENTY-FIRST.

**1782** The Commander-in-chief, for the purpose of levying new troops, wrote a circular letter to the States, saying, "To bring this war to a speedy and happy conclusion, must be the fervent wish of every lover of his country, and sure I am, that no means are so likely to effect these, as vigorous preparations for another campaign."

**1783** General Washington sent a letter of condolence to Lady Stirling, upon the sudden death of her husband, William Alexander, Lord Stirling, concluding with, "It will doubtless be a soothing consideration in the poignancy of your grief, to find that the general officers are going into mourning."

**1790** President Washington, at the Executive Mansion, received, and entertained to their manifest delight, a delegation of Caughnawaga Indians. Notwithstanding the demands of his official life, his interest in agricultural matters never flagged, as is indicated by a note in his diary on the following day—"Called in my ride on the Baron de Poelnitz to see the operation of his Winlow's Thrashing Machine."

"I need not tell you [Richard Henry Lee] who have known so thoroughly the sentiments of my heart, that I have a very high regard for the late Commander-in-chief of our army; and I now most sincerely believe that, while President Washington continues in the chair, he will be able to give to all men a satisfactory reason for every instance of his public conduct."

*Samuel Adams (Massachusetts), 1789.*

## JANUARY TWENTY-SECOND.

**1776** A party of Caughnawaga Indians came to visit the army at Cambridge, and pay their respects to the Commander-in-chief. "General Washington treats them with great attention, and will exert himself to make their stay one of enjoyment, that they may go away feeling the greatness and strength of our government and our friendship toward their nation."

**1781** The Commander-in-chief, Marquis de Lafayette, Count Dumas, and several other French officers spent the day at West Point. In consequence of Lafayette still suffering from the wound received at Brandywine, they returned to New Windsor by boat, and were in imminent danger from heavy ice. Washington, seeing the alarm of the boat-master, took the helm and said to the officers: "Courage, my friends, I am going to conduct you, since it is my duty to hold the helm."

**1784** Washington wrote to the secretary of Congress, Charles Thomson, asking permission to retain his original commission—the only personal request he ever made of the government. This valuable relic may be seen at the headquarters, Morristown, having been presented by Frederick J. Dreer to the "Washington Association of New Jersey."

"True to his country, true to his trust in God, who was his strength and his refuge; true to training and to himself, what more can we add to our tribute of grateful praise to God for the Christian character and consistent patriotism of Washington."

*William Stevens Perry, Bishop of Rhode Island.*

## JANUARY TWENTY-THIRD.

**1783** "The evacuation of Charleston (December 14th) and the total liberation of the southern states from the power of the enemy, are important events, of which the Commander-in-Chief has now received official information. It is with heartfelt satisfaction he takes an early opportunity of making it known, and of congratulating the army on the favorable prospect before us. The enemy after more than seven years war, and all their boasted conquests, being now reduced to narrower limits and a weaker force than they were possessed of seven years ago."—*Orderly Book (Newburg).*

**1790** During the winter the President gave his former aide-de-camp, Colonel Trumbull, a number of sittings for a full-length portrait. In his diary he wrote: "Went with Mrs. Washington in the forenoon to see the painting of Mr. John Trumbull."

**1799** Washington wrote to his nephew Colonel Lawrence Lewis, that, as guardian of Nellie Custis, he had been to Alexandria to authorize the issuing of a license for their marriage. His gift to the bride was a harpsichord, ordered from London at a cost of \$1,000. This quaint old instrument is now in the music room at Mount Vernon, having been presented by the daughter-in-law of Nellie Custis, Mrs. Lorenzo Lewis of Virginia, to the "Ladies' Mount Vernon Association of the Union."

"To George Washington, the hero, the citizen of the new and illustrious liberty; the land of Solon, Themistocles, and Pericles, the mother of ancient liberty, sends this ancient stone as a testimony of honor and admiration from the Parthenon."

*(Marble block sent by Greece for Washington Monument.)*

### JANUARY TWENTY-FOURTH.

**1778** The Commander-in-chief urged upon Governor Trumbull the importance of having uniforms for his Connecticut troops, suggesting some details and thanking him for the exertion he had made to clothe the men; he added: "If you cannot get all the clothes readily made up, I think you had better send part of the cloth here, and the regimental tailors will soon make them up, under the inspection of their officers."

**1791** From the Executive Mansion at Philadelphia, President Washington issued a proclamation to the commissioners appointed by Congress—Thomas Johnson of Maryland, Daniel Carroll of Maryland, and David Stuart of Virginia—to begin the survey of the "Federal Territory, designated for the permanent Seat of Government."

**1795** To Edmund Pendleton of Virginia, the eminent jurist, the President wrote: "The madness of the European powers, and the calamitous situation into which all of them are thrown by the present ruinous war, ought to be a serious warning to us to avoid a similar catastrophe. What will be the result of Mr. Jay's mission is more than I am able to disclose. Charged as he has been with all matters in dispute between the two countries, there would be a large field of discussion."

"His conduct has always been so uniformly manly, honorable, just, patriotic and disinterested, that his greatest enemies cannot fix on any one trait of his character that deserves the least censure."

*Henry Wansey (England).*

### JANUARY TWENTY-FIFTH.

**1776** The Caughnawaga sachems, squaws, and papooses left Cambridge. The evening before they had dined at Colonel Mifflin's with General Washington. He, perfectly understanding the Indian character, awed them greatly by introducing them with impressive ceremony to John Adams, "a chief of the Great Council Fire at Philadelphia."

**1777** The Commander-in-chief, from Morristown, issued a proclamation commanding all persons who had taken the oath of allegiance to Great Britain to repair to headquarters within thirty days, deliver up such protection, "and take the oath of allegiance to the United States of America, or forthwith to withdraw themselves and family within the enemy's lines."

**1781** To Quartermaster-General Colonel Pickering, Washington wrote at New Windsor: "Sir, my horses I am told have not had a mouthful of long or short forage for three days. They have eaten up their mangers and are now, (though wanted for immediate use,) scarcely able to stand."

"Faith, you and Applecrow were right  
To keep the Highlan' hounds in sight;  
I doubt na, they wad bid na better  
Than let them ance out owre the water;  
Then up amang thae lakes and seas,  
They'll mak' what rules an' laws they please;

"Some daring Hancock, or a Franklin  
May set their Highlan' bluid a-ranklin',  
Some Washington again may head them;  
Or some Montgomery, fearless, lead them;  
Till God knows what may be effected  
When by such heads and hearts directed."  
*Robert Burns (Scotland).*

**JANUARY TWENTY-SIXTH.**

**1756** Colonel Washington, from the frontier, made an eloquent appeal to Lord Dinwiddie for justice to his Virginia troops, demanding through that official royal recognition. He said: "We cannot conceive that because we are Americans, we should therefore be deprived of the benefits common to British subjects, nor that it should lessen our claim to preferment. And we are certain that no Body of Regular Troops ever before served three bloody campaigns without royal notice."

**1780** Congress, approving of the findings of the court martial, ordered that General Benedict Arnold be publicly reprimanded by the Commander-in-chief, which duty Washington performed at Morristown with singular delicacy, sympathy, and fidelity. He said: "Our profession is the chastest of all. Even the shadow of a fault tarnishes the lustre of our finest achievements. The least inadvertence may rob us of the public favor so hard to be acquired. I reprimand you, for having forgotten that, in proportion as you have rendered yourself formidable to our enemies, you should have been guarded and temperate towards your fellow citizens. Exhibit anew those noble qualities which have placed you on the list of our most valued commanders. I will, myself, furnish you, as far as it may be in my power, with opportunities of regaining the esteem of your country."

"England missed the sobriety, the self command, the perfect soundness of judgment, the perfect rectitude of intention, to which the history of revolutions furnishes no parallel, or furnishes a parallel in Washington alone."

*Thomas Babington Macaulay (Eulogy on John Hampden).*

**JANUARY TWENTY-SEVENTH.**

**1778** From Valley Forge the Commander-in-chief replied to General Gates in regard to the "Irruption into Canada." He said: "As I neither know the objects in view, nor the means to be employed to effect them, it is not in my power to pass any judgement upon the subject." A diplomatic response, as Washington knew the project of Gates and Conway was to weaken him; a part of their plan was the withdrawal of Lafayette from his personal association.

**1796** The Senate confirmed James McHenry, of Maryland, as Secretary of War. The President in offering him the office had frankly written, that it had been tendered to General Pinckney, Colonel Carrington, and Governor Howard. "I press you for an immediate answer, as the public service is suffering much for want of a head to the Department of War."

**1799** General Washington, writing to James McHenry, Secretary of War, concerning the new uniforms for the officers of the provisional army, illustrates how closely he studied detail, when he said, referring to the uniforms for the provisional army, "I am against all embroidery, but if it is on the cape, cuffs, and pockets of the coat, and none on the buff waistcoat, would it not have a disjointed appearance?"

"You are in my eyes the great and good man; may you long enjoy the love, veneration and esteem of these states whose liberties you have asserted by your virtues."

*Gen. Thomas Conway (to Washington).*

**JANUARY TWENTY-EIGHTH.**

**1760** Washington, always busy, never overlooked laziness in others. He wrote in his diary: "Visited my plantation, severely reprimanded young Stephens for indolence, and his father for suffering it. Found the new negro Cupid ill with pleurisy at Dogue Run, and had him brought home in a cart for better care of him." Under no circumstances, in peace or war, were the needs of "my people," as he often called the negroes, forgotten or neglected.

**1798** General Washington wrote to the commissioners of the "Federal District," in regard to a National University, offering to subscribe liberally to the same. He said: "It has always been a source of serious reflection and sincere regret with me that the youth of the United States should be sent to foreign countries for the purpose of education. The Federal City, from its centrality and the advantages, which in other respects it must have over any other place in the United States, ought to be preferred as a proper site for such an University."

"Washington would gladly in his own city have been the founder of the *University of America*. He had not himself to any extent, the advantages of a university education, but with the prophetic eye of the patriot and the statesman, he saw that here, on the banks of his own beautiful river, there was to be not only the seat of empire, the seat of a great Republican Empire, vastly grander indeed, than even he had ever dreamed; but also the centre of science, art and literature for America—the centre from which should radiate the light to illumine all the body politic, the heart from which should flow the blood through all the veins of our young Republic's intellectual life."

*Martin F. Morris, Justice (Washington, D. C.).*

**JANUARY TWENTY-NINTH.**

**1769** Colonel Washington wrote to his distant relative and friend William Ramsay, a merchant at Alexandria, Va.: "Having been informed of the studious habits of your son William, I will allow him twenty-five pounds annually to assist him in his education at Princeton College. No other return is expected or wished for this offer, than that you will accept it with the same freedom and good will with which it is made, and that you may not even consider it in the light of an obligation, or mention it as such; for be assured that from me it will never be known."

**1778** For the use of the Committee of Congress, the Commander-in-chief compiled a most important report containing fifty folios. It was based upon the reports, suggestions, and recommendations of the leading Continental officers, added to which were his own valuable deductions, and giving a concise picture of the army at this period of the war.

**1791** Through the Secretary of State, Thomas Jefferson, Major L'Enfant was asked to make such drafts of the grounds in the survey for the Federal City, as would enable President Washington "to fix the spot" for the various public buildings and determine location of reservations.

"His exterior disclosed as it were the history of his life, simplicity, grandeur, dignity, calmness, goodness, firmness. The attributes of his character were also stamped upon his features, and in all his person."

*Count de Ségur (France).*

**JANUARY THIRTIETH.**

**1776** General Washington offered to Lord Howe, Governor Skene in exchange for Mr. James Lovell and family, who, on account of service rendered the American cause in the city of Boston, had been sent to Canada by the English general. Washington insisted that their condition called for immediate consideration. To the president of Congress he wrote: "I wish it was in my power to furnish Congress with such a general as they desire to send to Canada. Since the unhappy reverse of our affairs in that quarter, Gen. Schuyler has informed me, that, though he had thoughts of declining the service before, he would now act."

**1781** The Commander-in-chief in a general order expressed his obligation to Major-General Robert Howe for his prompt suppression of the mutiny in the New Jersey troops, which outburst occurring on the twentieth was as alarming in character as that which had occurred in the Pennsylvania line. He instructed General Howe to grant no terms while the revolted troops were with arms, and, if successful in compelling a surrender, to instantly execute a few of the most active leaders.

<p>"I see the rolling years renew his fame, I hear each varied language coin his name, His shade invoked where freedom's banner           spreads. His deeds rehearsed where freedom's soldier           treads,</p>	<p>"His triumph boasted when the weak would dare, His virtue eited when the good despair, Till, from the Niger to the frozen sea, The joyous earth re-echoes — 'Man is free!'"</p>
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*Sarah Josepha Hale (New Hampshire).*

**JANUARY THIRTY-FIRST.**

**1776** The following extract from General Washington's letter to his secretary Colonel Reed, written at Cambridge, shows that he at once appreciated the power of Paine's great paper urging an immediate severance from the mother-country: "A few more such flaming arguments as were exhibited at Falmouth, and Norfolk, added to the sound doctrine and unanswerable reasoning contained in the pamphlet 'Common Sense' (Paine), will not leave numbers at a loss to decide upon the propriety of a separation."

**1778** The Commander-in-chief from Valley Forge expressed his personal obligation to Hon. Henry Laurens, president of Congress, for sending him (unofficially) information concerning the famous "Conrad Cabal."

**1786** From Mount Vernon, Washington urged James Rumsey to place his "Mechanical boat" (as he termed a model for a boat to be propelled by steam), before the public. Rumsey kept a commodious boarding-house [Berkeley Springs, Va.], at the sign of the "Liberty Pole and Flag."

**1793** President Washington wrote a letter of sympathy to Marchioness de Lafayette upon the captivity of her husband, and informed her that he had deposited with Nicholas Van Stophorst, Amsterdam, two hundred guineas, subject to her order.

"Washington is the advocate of human nature, the light of both worlds."

*Mirabeau (France).*





H. ROBERT NICHOLS.

WASHINGTON'S HEADQUARTERS AT VALLEY FORGE, PENNSYLVANIA, 1777.





## FEBRUARY FIRST.

**1776** General Washington, at Cambridge, in referring to the short enlistment of troops, said: "The disadvantages are so great and apparent to me, that I am convinced, uncertain as the continuance of the war is, that Congress had better determine to give a bounty of twenty, thirty, or even forty dollars to every man who will enlist for the whole time, be it long or short."

**1779** At the request of his friend John Jay, the Commander-in-chief while in Philadelphia sat to Pierre Eugène du Simitière. It was a profile head in black lead, and only known through engravings by the artist, who wrote: "The General condescended with great good nature to sit about three quarters of an hour for the above likeness, having but little time to spend, being the last day of his stay in town."

**1782** Washington's letter to Meshech Weare of New Hampshire, utilized as a circular letter to the governors, shows the General did not claim that Yorktown was an end of the contest. "The broken and perplexed state of the enemy's affairs, and the successes of the last campaign on our part, ought to be a powerful incitement to vigorous preparations for the next. Unless we strenuously exert ourselves to profit by these successes, we shall not only lose all solid advantages that might be derived from them, but we shall become contemptible in our eyes, in the eyes of our enemy, in the opinion of posterity, and even in the estimation of the whole world, which will consider us as a nation unworthy of prosperity, because we know not how to make a right use of it."

**1796** The President wrote to Oliver Wolcott at Hartford, regretting the recent death of Governor Huntington, adding, "At the same time I can but feel consoled that the government of the State has fallen into such hands as yours."

"He was by nature vehement, impulsive, headstrong, impatient, passionate; a man in whose blood the fiery courses might easily have run to riot, and strewed their way with havoc. How great the honor due to him who so held them under bit, rein and curb, that masterly self-control under intensest provocation became his foremost character, that disappointment, delay, defeat, even treachery, so seldom disturbed his equanimity, spread a cloud over his brow, or drew from him a resentful or bitter word. In mien, manner, speech, and intercourse, he was never beneath and never above his place. Dignity without haughtiness, firmness without obstinacy, condescension without stooping, gentleness without suppleness, affability without undue familiarity, were blended in him as in hardly any other historical personage."

*Andrew P. Peabody, LL. D. (Harvard University).*

## FEBRUARY SECOND.

**1778** General Washington, in his unfailing fatherly interest, wrote to his stepson, Major John Parke Custis: "I congratulate you upon the birth of another daughter, and Nelly's good health, and heartily wish the last may continue, and the other be a blessing to you." This child was Martha Parke Custis, who married Thomas Peter, Esq. They lived at Tudor Place, Georgetown, D. C., where their granddaughter, Mrs. Beverly Kennon, resides.

**1779** The Commander-in-chief, having asked permission of Congress to join his army at Middlebrook, left Philadelphia with his wife. They had been, for about six weeks, the guests of Hon. Henry Laurens; and this was his first intermission from active field-service since he assumed command. The "Pennsylvania Packet" said: "He had been honored with every mark of esteem which his exalted qualities as a gentleman and a citizen entitled him to."

**1784** Washington wrote to Lafayette, in Paris: "At length I am become a private citizen on the banks of the Potomac. I have not only retired from all public employment, but I am *retiring* within myself. Envious of none, I am determined to be pleased with all; and this, being the order of my march, I will move gently down the stream of life, until I sleep with my fathers."

"The character of Washington is a national possession. To its courage and perseverance we owe the successful issue of our war for independence; to its integrity and judgment the permanence of our constitutional experiment, and to its firmness and patriotism, our position as a nation. All Americans should study and venerate it." *William S. Baker (Pennsylvania).*

## FEBRUARY THIRD.

**1774** Colonel Washington and wife attended the marriage of her only son, John Parke Custis, to Eleanor Calvert, daughter of Benedict Calvert, Esq., of Mount Airy, Prince George, Md., and a descendant of Lord Baltimore. Washington would have been gratified if he could have induced his stepson and ward to travel in Europe before settling down to the life of a planter.

**1791** The President wrote, confidentially, to the Federal commissioners: "The Federal Territory being located, the competition for the location of the town now rests between the mouth of the Eastern Branch and the lands on the river below and adjacent to Georgetown. There are lands which stand yet, in the way of the latter location, and which, if they could be obtained for the purpose of the town, would remove a considerable obstacle to it, and go near indeed to decide what has been so long on the balance with me."

**1793** The following extract from a letter to his manager illustrates the fact that under no circumstances did Washington forget or neglect even his lesser charities: "Sarah Flatfoot (you call her Lightfoot) has been accustomed to receive a pair of shoes, stockings, a country cloth petticoat, and an oznabrig shift, all ready made, annually, and it is not meant to discontinue them."

"Deeds of serenity were his sad tribute to justice, deeds of humanity the native suggestions of his heart. His deeds and his virtues are his high eulogium. His deeds most familiar to your memories; his virtues most dear to your affections." *John Mitchell Mason, D. D. (New York).*

## FEBRUARY FOURTH.

**1756** Colonel Washington, accompanied by his aide Captain Mercer and two servants, set out on horseback from Winchester, Va., on his mission to Governor Shirley of Massachusetts. "He wore a uniform of blue and buff, with a white cloak lined with scarlet, and a short dress sword, with sword knot of gold and red. His servant's livery was scarlet and white, with hat laced with silver. The horse trappings were of London make, with the Washington arms engraved upon the housings."

**1780** General Washington wrote from Morristown to the Marquis de la Luzerne: "I thank your Excellency for the agreeable intelligence you give me of his most christian Majesty's intentions to send over succor of arms and ammunition. It is a new and valuable proof of his friendship, and will be of essential utility."

**1790** President Washington in the Executive Mansion, No. 3 Cherry Street, New York, entertained at dinner the Vice-President, the Chief Justice and Justices of the Supreme Court, the cabinet, several senators, and other officials.

"I cannot deny myself the pleasure of informing you of the sentiments with which the reports of the French officers, on their return to Versailles, inspired the court and nation towards your excellency. Their testimony can add nothing to the universal opinion respecting the great services which you have rendered to your country; but to the esteem and admiration of the French, will henceforth be added a sentiment of affection and attachment which is a just return for the attention our officers have received from you, and for the progress they have made in their profession by serving under your orders."

*Luzerne (France), 1782.*

## FEBRUARY FIFTH.

**1776** "The Colonels of the Old Establishment, will to day and tomorrow receive warrants for their pay abstracts for the months of November and December. Hereafter even for officers, there will be no allowance made for neglect or mistakes." *Washington's Orderly Book (Cambridge).*

**1779** General and Mrs. Washington reached headquarters, Middlebrook. Commenting upon his visit, the General said: "While in Philadelphia what between Congress, and a special committee of that body, I was furnished with ample employment. I had few moments of relaxation."

**1785** To Samuel Vaughn, an English merchant who had a house in Philadelphia, Washington wrote, thanking him for the handsome present of a marble mantelpiece, now in the Banquet Hall, Mount Vernon, saying, "I fear it is too elegant and costly for my room, and republican style of living." This mantel is of white marble supported by Siena columns. On the tablets in high relief are well-executed scenes in the life of the husbandman.

"The character of Washington has, after all, been undervalued, because not valued correctly. He was a proper puritan hero. It is his exactness and persistency which attract me. A few simple deeds and a dignified silence for a back-ground is all. He never fluctuated, nor lingered, nor stooped nor wavered, but was nobly silent and assured. His behavior in the field and in council, and his dignified and contented withdrawal to private life were great. He could advance and he could retreat."

*Henry David Thoreau (Massachusetts).*

## FEBRUARY SIXTH.

**1783** In celebration of the fifth anniversary of the French alliance, the Commander-in-chief reviewed the army, and after the *feu de joie* received, as announced, "Not only all the officers of the cantonment, but all the gentlemen of the army, and other gentlemen and ladies, who can attend with convenience at the New Building; where a cold collation will be provided." In a letter of this date Washington congratulated General Greene on his great southern success, saying, "If historiographers should be hardy enough to fill the page of History with the advantages, that have been gained with unequal numbers, (on the part of America) in the course of this contest, and attempt to relate the distressing circumstances under which they have been obtained, it is more than probable that Posterity will bestow on their labors the epithet and marks of Fiction."

**1786** At Mount Vernon Washington said: "Mr. Lear, or any other man who may come into my family in the blended characters of preceptor to the children, and as a clerk or private secretary to me, will sit at my table, will live as I live, will mix with the company who resort to the house, will be treated in every respect with civility and proper attention."

**1788** The State of Massachusetts ratified the Federal Constitution.

"Men of all descriptions and everywhere take pride in his name. It is the watchword of liberty in every land: it is heard with mingled respect and apprehension in the palaces of kings, with reverence in the hut of the savage."  
*John Carroll Brent (Maryland).*

## FEBRUARY SEVENTH.

**1776** The following from the Orderly Book, Cambridge, establishes the date of the first appointment of an army chaplain: "The Continental Congress having been pleased to order and direct that there shall be one Chaplain to two Regiments, and that the pay of each Chaplain shall be Thirty three dollars & one third pr Kalendar month. The Rev'd Abiel Leonard is appointed Chaplain to the Regiment of Artillery under the command of Col. Knox, and to the 20th, Regiment commanded by Lt Col Durkee."

**1781** Congress resolved, "That there be a Superintendent of Finance, a Secretary of War, and a Secretary of Marine," which greatly relieved Washington.

**1788** Acknowledging an introduction from Marquis de la Luzerne of his successor Count de Moustier, Washington said: "It will not be forgotten, that you were a witness to the dangers, the sufferings, the exertions, and the successes of the United States, from the most perilous crisis to the hour of triumph. The influence of your agency on the cabinet to produce a coöperation, and the prowess of your countrymen coöperating with ours in the field to secure the liberties of America, have made such an indelible impression on the public mind as will never be effaced."

"Ille operum custos; illum admirantur et omnes  
 Circumstant fremitu denso."

"These verses are applicable to him in every sense: he has been the founder of the republic, and only he can preserve it under the new form that it has been given."

*Comte de Moustier (France), 1789.*

## FEBRUARY EIGHTH.

**1756** Colonel Washington en route for Boston spent a day and night at Philadelphia. His sundry expenses while there were two pounds and three shillings. It was his first visit to this city, where in after years he was destined to bear so conspicuous a part in civil and military affairs. Here, as elsewhere on his journey, he was received with distinguished consideration; for, although only twenty-four years of age, his name was familiar throughout the colonies.

**1782** From his headquarters, the elegant Chew House, South Third Street, Philadelphia, the Commander-in-chief with the approval of Congress issued the following wise and conciliatory proclamation: "Free pardon to all deserters, as well as those who may have joined the enemy, as others, who shall deliver themselves up to any Continental officer on or before the first day of June next."

**1785** Washington forwarded papers to Richard Henry Lee, president of Congress, from Lady Huntington, giving an outline of her project to civilize and Christianize the Indians. He said: "Her Ladyship has spoken so feelingly and sensibly on the religious and benevolent purposes of the plan, that no language of which I am possessed can add aught to enforce her observations."

"More wonderful than generalship or statecraft, is the skill with which Washington was able to guide his course amid the turbulent passions and fierce strife of parties, so as to keep his own character untainted, his name unsullied; winning and holding the confidence of his contemporaries and the reverence of posterity."

*Thomas R. Phister (Kentucky).*

## FEBRUARY NINTH.

**1776** At Cambridge, General Washington ordered that colonels, under *no* pretext, should license more than one sutler within the limits of the camp: "The Q. M. G. has his Excellency's authority to punish severely any one who is licensed or licenses contrary to the above law." To Congress he wrote: "I tried every method I could think of to procure arms for the men. They are really not to be had in these governments belonging to the Republic, and if some method is not fallen upon in the Southern governments to supply us we shall be in a distressed situation for want of them."

**1782** Washington regretted "the unavoidable delay in performing a most agreeable piece of duty, owing to the difficulty of getting proper engraving executed," which duty is explained in this resolution.

"Congress resolved, that two pieces of the field ordnance taken from the British Army under the capitulation of York be presented by the Commander-in-chief of the American Army to Count de Rochambeau; and that there be engraved thereon a short memorandum, that Congress were induced to present them from considerations of the illustrious part he bore in effecting the surrender."

"Washington est mort. Ce grand homme s'est battu contre la tyrannie: il a consolidé la liberté de sa patrie. Sa mémoire sera toujours chère au peuple français, comme à tous les hommes libres des deux mondes, et spécialement aux soldats français qui, comme lui et les soldats Américains se battent pour l'égalité et la liberté. En conséquence, le premier consul ordonne que pendant dix jours des crêpes noirs seront suspendus à tous les drapeaux et guidons de la république."

*Napoleon (Order to the Army, Champs de Mars, 1800).*

## FEBRUARY TENTH.

**1778** General Washington made a most stirring appeal to Congress for the relief of his distressed army, saying that many of his brave soldiers might be tracked by "the blood from their uncovered feet." He agreed that his two commissioners would meet two from Lord Howe at the "King of Prussia's Tavern," Germantown, to arrange for exchange of prisoners. Mrs. Washington arrived at Valley Forge this day, and wrote to Mrs. Greene: "The General's apartments are very small; he has had a log cabin built to dine in, which makes our quarters more tolerable than they were at first."

**1786** Washington, at this period undisturbed in his favorite pursuit of agriculture and the improvement of his beloved Mount Vernon, wrote in his diary: "Making up the banks round ye Serpentine walks to the front gate." Four days previous he noted "Planting pines in the wilderness on the left of the lawn and spading the ground there." In referring to a shrub he had planted, he said: "Its light and airy foliage, crimson and variegated flowers, present a gay and mirthful appearance; continually whilst in bloom visited by the brilliant, thundering Humming-bird."

"Most nations have been favored with some prophetic deliverer; the Israelites had their Moses; Rome had her Camillus, Greece her Leonidas, Sweden her Gustavus, England her Hampdens, her Russells, and her Sydneys; but these illustrious heroes, though successful in preserving and defending, did not, like Washington, form or establish empires which will be the refuge or asylum of liberty, banished from Europe by luxury and exemption."

*John Bell (Maryland).*

## FEBRUARY ELEVENTH.

**1732** "George Washington, son to Augustine Washington, and Mary, his wife, was born ye 11th day of February, 1731-2, about ten in the morning, and was baptized ye 3d of April following. Mr. Beverly Whiting and Captain Christopher Brooke, godfathers, and Mrs. Mildred Gregory, godmother." This record was written by George Washington in his mother's Bible before the adoption of the Gregorian Calendar, which made February 22d his birthday according to the "new style."

**1769** "Went ducking till dinner. Mr. Piper dined here and Betsey Dandridge came home in the evening." *Washington's Diary.*

**1779** General Washington's birthday was first observed at Winchester, Va., and four years later publicly celebrated at a dinner given by officers of the Maryland Line, at Cambridge, Dorchester County, Md. "The Birth Day Ball" at Alexandria was inaugurated near this time, and during the century has rarely been omitted.

"The silver trump of fame;  
His glory shall proclaim;  
Till time is done;  
Genius with taste refined,  
Courage with coolness joined,  
'Bove all an honest mind,  
Has Washington.

"Fill the glass to the brink,  
Washington's health we will drink—  
'Tis his birthday.  
Glorious deeds he has done,  
By him our cause is won,  
Long live Great Washington,  
Huzza, Huzza."

*Song, Feb. 11, 1784.*

## FEBRUARY TWELFTH.

**1768** "Went fox-hunting with Colonel Fairfax, Mr. McCarty, Mr. Chichester, Captains Posey and Manley, who dined here with Mrs. Fairfax and Miss Nichols. Caught two foxes." *Washington's Diary*.

**1781** At Newport (Monday), Count Rochambeau celebrated the birthday of the Commander-in-chief with a fête; and there was a suspension of labor by his army. The gallant Frenchman wrote: "We will celebrate it with the sole regret that your Excellency be not a witness of the effusion and gladness of our hearts." From the beginning Washington inspired the officers of the allied army with sentiments not only of esteem, but affection.

**1788** From camp, from legislative hall, from executive duty, Washington's heart turned to the beautiful fields of Mount Vernon, and he was never so happy as when on them. To Alexander Spotswood, Esq., he said: "The life of a husbandman of all others is the most delectable. It is honorable, it is amusing, and with judicious management it is profitable. To see plants rise from the earth and flourish by the superior skill and bounty of the laborer fills the contemplative mind with ideas which are more easy to be conceived than expressed."

"That most ancient and honorable employment, the cultivation of the earth, from which little minds, intoxicated with pride, turn away with scorn, was his delightful occupation. . . . It was his industry and activity, at home, which qualified him for the toils of the campaign and the dangers of the battlefield, as well as the more arduous labors of the cabinet."

*Rev. Robert Wilson (Virginia), 1800.*

## FEBRUARY THIRTEENTH.

**1784** General Washington, from Mount Vernon, in an order to his merchant, Robert Carey, London, said: "Mrs. Washington would take it as a favor if you will direct Mrs. Shelby to send her a fashionable summer cloak and hat, a black silk apron, one piece of penny and one of two-penny ribbon (white), and a pair of French bead ear-rings and necklace. And I should be obliged to you for sending me a dozen and a half of water plates. (Pewter, with my crest engraved.)"

**1786** At Mount Vernon, Washington wrote suggestions to Jefferson, in Paris, for connecting by canal the head waters of the Ohio River and the Chesapeake Bay; also the advisability of establishing cotton manufactories, and giving the assurance that *very good cotton* grew in Georgia. Referring to the manufacture of glass, he asked him to examine European factories and send all important data. As early as 1774 Washington became interested in the manufacture of glass, and doubtless would have established that industry but for the intervention of the War of Independence.

"Washington is a great work of the Almighty Artist, which none can study without receiving purer ideas and more lofty conceptions of the grace and beauty of the human character. He is already become the saint of liberty, which has gathered new honors by being associated with his name; and when men aspire to free nations, they must take him for their model. . . . The whole world was the theatre of his actions, and all mankind are destined to partake sooner or later in their results. He is a hero of a new species, he had no model; will he have any imitators?"

*James Kirke Paulding (New York).*

## FEBRUARY FOURTEENTH.

**1777** The Commander-in-chief, with a hunter's sympathy, replied to his old friend, the brilliant cavalry officer and enthusiastic lover of the chase, Henry Lee: "Your dogs are in Virginia. This circumstance I regret, as you will be deprived of the satisfaction and amusements you hoped to derive, from their friendly and companionable dispositions."

**1780** The "hutting" was announced completed at Morristown and the army in better condition, though in consequence of exposure the men were suffering much from lung-fever. Washington was passing through one of the most inactive and harassing periods of the struggle, yet daily compelled to witness the discomfort and actual needs of his troops, while totally unable to relieve them.

**1781** The Commander-in-chief, in a general order from New Windsor, "with great satisfaction" congratulated the army upon important successes lately obtained in South Carolina; particularly praising the gallantry of General Daniel Morgan, Virginia; Colonel John Eager Howard, Maryland; and Colonel William Washington, South Carolina. In recognition of the achievements of these brilliant officers, Congress presented each with a gold medal.

"The voice of praise could not betray him into rashness, nor the malignant tongues of slander warp him from his duty; with the same steady mind he advanced; with the same steady mind he retired; with the same firm soul he fought the foe, with the same firm soul he declined the combat; when victory held out to him her bleeding hand, he clasped it with serenity; thanking God."

*Frederick Frelinghuysen, Major-General (New Jersey), 1800.*

## FEBRUARY FIFTEENTH.

**1760** "Went to a ball in Alexandria where Musick and dancing was the chief Entertainment, Tea and Coffee which the drinkers of could not distinguish from hot sweetened water. Be it remembered that pocket-handkerchiefs served the purposes of table cloths & Napkins, and no apology for either. I shall therefore distinguish this ball by the stile and title of 'The Bread and Butter Ball.'" *Washington's Diary.*

**1780** At Morristown, General Washington expressed to Joseph Reed his gratification at having been elected a member of the "American Philosophical Society." He said: "I feel myself particularly honored by this relation to a society, whose successful efforts for promoting useful knowledge have already justly acquired for them the highest reputation in the literary world."

**1787** Washington urged his mother to rent her land and live with one of her children, but knowing her character, that she would never be happy as an inmate of any household except upon an independent basis, he suggested "that a man, a maid, the phaeton, and two horses are all you would want. For the support of these would not require  $\frac{1}{4}$  of your income." He concluded with candor: "My house is at your service; but I am sure it would never answer your purpose, for in truth it may be compared to a well resorted tavern."

"I am not surprised at what George has done, for he was always a good boy."

*Mary Washington (1789).*



## FEBRUARY SIXTEENTH.

**1776** In council of war, the Commander-in-chief proposed an attack on Boston over the ice from Cambridge and Roxbury, but was overruled by his officers, who were opposed to an aggressive movement at that time because the army was deficient in arms and powder.

**1778** General Washington wrote to Governor Clinton from Valley Forge, saying, "Naked and starving as they are, we cannot enough admire the incomparable patience and fidelity of the soldiery, that they have not been ere this excited by their suffering to a general mutiny and dispersion." A few days later he informed Congress of the arrival of Baron Steuben, and said: "He appears to be much of a gentleman, and as far as I have had an opportunity of judging, a man of military knowledge and acquainted with the world."

**1783** Divine service was held at New Windsor in the "New Building," which had just been completed, also called "The Temple" and "The Public Building." "It had a cupola, a flagstaff, and an orchestra," and could accommodate a brigade of troops. Washington ordered it should be occupied by the different brigades each succeeding Lord's Day—chaplains and regiments in rotation.

"He has ever shown himself superior to fortune, and in the most trying adversity has discovered until then unknown resources, and, as if his abilities only increased and dilated at the prospect of difficulty, he is never better supplied than when he seems destitute of everything; nor have his armies ever been so fatal to his enemies as at the very instant when they have thought they have crushed him forever."

*Abbé Claude C. Robin (France).*

## FEBRUARY SEVENTEENTH.

**1778** The "camp famine" at Valley Forge was the subject of every pen, and no one would have been surprised if the army had dissolved. Lafayette said: "The unfortunate soldiers were in want of everything: they had neither coats, hats, shirts, nor shoes; their feet and legs froze till they were black, and it was often necessary to amputate them." They were in no condition to fight, or the Commander-in-chief would have made a feint on the enemy at Philadelphia in obedience to the expressed desire of Congress. He appealed for cattle to New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia, saying, "a bountiful price will be given, and the proprietors may assure themselves that they will render a most essential service to the cause of their country."

**1781** Washington congratulated Congress upon the victory of General Morgan at Cowpens, S. C., over Colonel Tarleton and the flower of the British army. He said: "It reflects the highest honor upon our arms, and I hope it will at least be attended with this advantage: that it will check the offensive operations of the enemy until General Greene shall have collected a much more respectable force than he had under his command by the last accounts from him."

"Modest in the midst of pride, wise in the midst of folly, calm in the midst of passion, cheerful in the midst of gloom, steadfast among the wavering, hopeful among the despondent, bold among the timid, prudent among the rash, generous among the selfish, true among the faithless, greatest among good men, and best among the great, such was George Washington at Valley Forge."

*Henry Armitt Brown (Pennsylvania), 1878.*

**FEBRUARY EIGHTEENTH.**

**1779** The Commander-in-chief at Pluckamin, N. J., attended the celebration of the first anniversary of the French alliance, given by General Knox and the officers. This should have occurred on the 6th, the proper date, but was deferred, owing to the absence of Washington. The General opened the ball with Mrs. Knox. A salute of sixteen guns was fired in compliment to Louis XVI.

**1782** General Washington urged upon the United Colonies that as the speech of King George at the opening of Parliament did not give promise of peace, the best thing was to take vigorous steps for the coming campaign, and promptly furnish men and supplies.

**1792** President Washington approved an act admitting Vermont into the Federal Union — the first star added to the original thirteen.

**1795** In the President's instructions to his nephew Robert Lewis, he said: "Mrs. Haney should endeavor to do what she can for herself, that is a duty en incumbent on every one; but you must not let her suffer, as she has thrown herself upon me; your advances on this account will be allowed always, at settlement; and I agree readily to furnish her with provisions, and give her daughter in my name a handsome but not costly gown."

"In every situation, under every circumstance, in every view of his glorious career, we may trace the sublime; I might say divine energy of that soul with which he was endowed by Omnipotence for the vindication of his country's rights." *Samuel Knox (Maryland), 1800.*

**FEBRUARY NINETEENTH.**

**1776** The Commander-in-chief decided he was now supplied with powder sufficient to justify his attack on Boston. To Governor Trumbull he expressed his opinion of the bad policy of the towns keeping powder stored for their defense, rather than supplying the needs of the army.

**1777** General Washington, from Morristown, urged Congress to provide promptly for an increase of the army. He stated that every officer who could be spared from the camp had been ordered to the several colonies to actively engage in recruiting service, and to gather in the men who remained at home upon temporary hospital discharge. After repeated and pressing requests from the Commander-in-chief for an increase of general officers, Congress this day appointed five major-generals—Stirling, Mifflin, St. Clair, Stephens, and Lincoln.

**1795** This day was observed as a national thanksgiving in pursuance of the President's Proclamation, in which he said: "When we review the calamities which afflict so many other nations, the present condition of the United States affords much matter of consolation and satisfaction."

"The character of Washington has ascended above the ordinary language of eulogy. . . . He dignified office, he elevated the highest rank—military or civil—he ever held. No rank, military or civil, ever raised him, or could come up to that majesty of character which the God of his nature had implanted in him. That was our Washington." *John J. Crittenden (Kentucky).*

## FEBRUARY TWENTIETH.

**1781** The Commander-in-chief selected from several posts twelve hundred men, and gave the command to General Lafayette, with orders to march to Virginia, expecting he would be supported in the Chesapeake Bay by a detachment from the French fleet. One of the chief objects of this expedition was the capture of Benedict Arnold, who had been made brigadier-general in the British service, and was devastating and outraging that colony.

**1788** Washington responded to President Samuel Griffin: "I have been duly honored and greatly affected with the receipt of the resolution of the visitors and Governors of William and Mary College, appointing me Chancellor of the same, and have to thank you for your polite attention in the transmission." Two months later, after inquiring into the duties of the office, he wrote: "Influenced by a heartfelt desire to promote the cause of science in general, and the prosperity of the college of William and Mary in particular, I accept the office of Chancellor." In this office he succeeded Robert Lowth, D. D., Bishop of London.

**1792** President Washington approved an act fixing rates of postage, and conferring the franking privilege on members of Congress and heads of departments.

"Where Washington hath left  
His awful memory  
A light for after times."

*Robert Southey (England).*

## FEBRUARY TWENTY-FIRST.

**1777** To General Parsons, who was recruiting in Connecticut, the Commander-in-chief gave orders in regard to the Tories: "They have permission to carry in with them their necessary wearing apparel, but nothing that can possibly be useful to the enemy. Their estates must be secured, till the civil power determine what shall be done."

**1782** Congress invested Washington with power to negotiate an exchange of prisoners on the broadest scale, but with a "secret instruction" that nothing contained therein "should be construed to authorize the exchange of Lord Cornwallis." He replied to Congress: "I find myself so exceedingly embarrassed—Your prohibiting the exchange of Lord Cornwallis by composition, which is the only mode he can be exchanged, except for civil characters, we having no military grade answerable to his."

**1796** President Washington wrote to Lord Buchan in regard to securing thrifty Scotchmen for Mount Vernon, objecting to the "slovenly farmers" which he had to employ as tenants.

"The stately column that stretches heavenward from the plain whereon we stand bears witness to all who behold it, that the covenant which our fathers made, their children have fulfilled. In the completion of this great work of patriotic endeavor there is abundant cause for national rejoicing, for while this structure shall endure it shall be to all mankind a steadfast token of the affectionate and reverent regard in which this people continue to hold the memory of Washington. Well may he ever keep the foremost place in the hearts of his countrymen."

*Chester A. Arthur, President of the United States.*

*Presenting the Washington National Monument to the people, Feb. 21, 1885.*

## FEBRUARY TWENTY-SECOND.

**1732** George Washington was born at "Wakefield, Westmoreland County, Virginia (New Style)." At the seat of Government, and in every State in the Union (with the exception of six), this natal day is a legal holiday, and in every capital of the world is coming to be more and more honored.

**1790** "The order of the Society of the Cincinnati" celebrated at Philadelphia the birthday of Washington. Many distinguished members, led by Chief Justice Thomas McKean of Delaware, marched in procession to the Executive Mansion, to pay their respects to their President General.

**1796** A motion was made in Congress to adjourn in honor of Washington's Birthday, but lost by a few disaffected members "Making a plea of bad precedent." This becoming known, the shouting of the crowd without prevented the speakers being heard, and forced an adjournment.

**1799** Washington's adopted daughter, and his wife's granddaughter, Eleanor Parke Custis, was married at Mount Vernon to Major Lawrence Lewis, son of Washington's only sister and Colonel Fielding Lewis.

**1800** The obsequies of George Washington were officially celebrated at the Capital of the United States, and observed in every city of the nation. Eulogies were pronounced upon him throughout the civilized world.

"Honored and loved—the patriot—and the sage  
Born for thine own and every coming age.  
Thy country's champion—Freedom's chosen son  
We hail thy birthday—glorious Washington."  
*S. F. Smith, D. D. (Author of "My Country, 'T is of Thee").*

## FEBRUARY TWENTY-THIRD.

**1782** Congress resolved "That the Commander-in-chief be authorized to agree to the exchange of Earl Cornwallis by composition; provided that the Hon. Henry Laurens be liberated, and proper assurance obtained that all accounts for the support of the convention of prisoners, and all other prisoners of war shall be speedily settled and discharged."

**1790** The Tammany Society, or The Columbian Order (Monday), "Met and resolved that for ever after, this society will commemorate the birthday of the illustrious Washington"—a patriotic observance that is never neglected.

**1799** General and Mrs. Washington sent out invitations to a dinner-party, to be given at Mount Vernon the following Tuesday, in compliment to "the couple just married," Major and Mrs. Lawrence Lewis. The bride was one of the most attractive of the many rare and beautiful women of the dawn of the Republic. A pen-picture of Nellie Custis was given by Latrobe, just arrived from the capitals of Europe, who said: "She has more perfection of form, of expression, of color, of softness, and of firmness of mind than I have ever seen before."

"Yet has no month a prouder day,  
Not even when the summer broods  
O'er meadows in their fresh array,  
Or Autumn tints the glowing woods.

"For this chill season now again  
Brings in its annual rounds the morn  
When greatest of the sons of men,  
Our glorious Washington was born."  
*William Cullen Bryant (New York).*

**FEBRUARY TWENTY-FOURTH.**

**1756** Colonel Washington remained several days in New York, the guest of Beverly Robinson, Esq., at whose house he met, and fell in love with, Mary Phillips (afterward Mrs. Roger Morris). It was curious enough that through the fortunes of war their mansion on the Hudson became the headquarters of the Commander-in-chief.

**1781** General Washington from headquarters, New Windsor, wrote Count de Rochambeau: "The flattering distinction paid to the anniversary of my birthday is an honor for which I dare not attempt to express my gratitude; I confide in your Excellency's sensibility to interpret my feelings for this, and for the obliging manner in which you are pleased to announce it."

**1794** President Washington sent to Rev. James Muir his annual subscription of fifty pounds, to assist in the education of the poor children of Alexandria, and asked that instructor if he could give any report of those who had been benefited by this subscription; for, while his life was an assurance of his generosity, he never gave unwisely. By his will he left the sum of five thousand dollars for this charity, "for the sons of widows."

"Washington, although born with every superior quality, adds to them an imposing modesty which will always cause him to be admired by those who have the good fortune to see him. As for esteem he has already drawn to himself that of all Europe . . . Washington—the *Atlas* of your country."  
*Chevalier de Silly (France).*

**FEBRUARY TWENTY-FIFTH.**

**1779** Dr. James Thacher, who has left several pen-portraits of Washington in his admirable "Military Journal," dined with him at headquarters, Middlebrook. The doctor said: "He is feared even when silent, and beloved even when we are unconscious of the motive. In conversation his Excellency's expressive countenance is peculiarly interesting and pleasing; a placid smile is frequently observed on his lips, but a loud laugh, it is said, seldom if ever escapes him. He is polite and attentive to each individual at table and retires after the compliment of a few glasses. Mrs. Washington combines in an uncommon degree, great dignity of manner with the most pleasing affability, but possesses no striking marks of beauty."

**1790** The President, having moved to his "new habitation" on Broadway, was occupied in the arrangement of the establishment. He thus notes, however, the first census law: "In the afternoon a Committee of Congress presented an act for enumerating the inhabitants of the United States."

**1795** Joseph Habersham, of Georgia, nominated by President Washington, was confirmed as Postmaster-General to succeed Timothy Pickering, appointed Secretary of War. This able officer remained in office under three Presidents.

"The figure of Washington was the presentment of a king; a king who by the irony of fate was just then waging war against all king-ship; a ruler of men who just then was fighting for the rights of these men to govern themselves; but whom by his own right he dominated."  
*Francis Bret Harte (New York).*

**FEBRUARY TWENTY-SIXTH.**

**1758** Colonel Washington reached Williamsburg, having been detained three weeks at his mother's home by pulmonary fever. The purpose of this journey was to demand settlement of military accounts. During his stay at the Capital the House of Burgesses increased the militia, giving bounty for recruits. It was en route from Fredericksburg, at the hospitable mansion of Colonel Chamberlain, that the young officer met and was captured by the charming widow, Mrs. Martha Dandridge Custis.

**1776** In council of war at Cambridge, it was decided to march upon the enemy, on the anniversary of the Boston massacre. Washington this day issued the following order: "All officers, non-commissioned officers, and soldiers are positively forbid playing at cards and other games of chance. In this time of public distress men may find enough to do in the service of their God and their country without abandoning themselves to vice and immorality."

**1784** To his nephew Fielding Lewis, Washington wrote: "You very much mistake my circumstances when you suppose me in a condition to advance money. I made no money from my Estate during the nine years I was absent from it, and brought none home with me. Those who owed me took advantage of the depreciation and paid me off with six pence on the pound."

"Washington was parsimonious of the blood of his countrymen, and stood forth the pure and virtuous champion of their rights, forming for them (not for himself) a mighty empire."  
*Elkanah Watson (Massachusetts).*

**FEBRUARY TWENTY-SEVENTH.**

**1747** The earliest plat of a survey by Washington is a crude sketch (still in existence), and is inscribed by him: "A plan of Major Lawrence Washington's Turnip Field, as surveyed by me, this twenty-seventh Day of February, 1747/8."

**1785** General Washington wrote to Governor Patrick Henry declining the 150 shares of stock voted him by the Assembly, saying, "I shall ever consider this act as an unequivocal and substantial testimony of the approving voice of my country for the part I have acted on the American Theatre, and shall feast upon the recollection of it as often as it occurs to me; but that is all I can, or mean to do. It was my first declaration in Congress after accepting my military appointment, that I would not receive anything for such services as I might be able to render the cause in which I had embarked."

**1791** To Major L'Enfant the Secretary of State wrote that the President, "having received necessary evidence" of his refusal to accept or obey orders issued by the commissioners of the Federal Territory, had instructed him to say, "your services are at an end."

"His ability, his wisdom, his piety, his indomitable energy and his unselfish patriotism certainly can never be exceeded. We have greatly loved Lincoln, heartily trusted Grant, but surely our souls cleave in reverent affection above all, to Washington."

*Oliver Otis Howard (U. S. Army).*

**FEBRUARY TWENTY-EIGHTH.**

**1776** General Washington wrote a charming note of thanks to "Miss Phillis Wheatley," "daughter of the murky Senegal," acknowledging a poem she had written him, saying, "If you should ever come to Cambridge, or near headquarters I shall be happy to see a person so favored by the Muses, and to whom nature has been so liberal and beneficent in her dispensations." In 1761 Phillis was brought a child from Africa, and bought in the slave-market of Boston by Mr. John Wheatley, whose wife with every care developed her talents.

**1779** General Knox wrote his brother a description of the ball he gave at Pluckamin, to celebrate the alliance between France and America: "We had about seventy ladies, all of the first *ton* in the state, and between three and four hundred gentlemen. The Commander-in-chief mixed with unreserved pleasure with the revellers who danced all night."

**1797** President Washington vetoed an act to ascertain and fix the military establishment of the United States; this was his second and his last veto. Congress enacted new measures in accord with his views in both vetoes.

<p>"Fixed are the eyes of nations on the scales, For in their hopes Columbia's arm prevails, Anon Britannia droops the pensive head While round increase the rising hills of dead. Ah! cruel blindness to Columbia's state</p>	<p>"Lament thy thirst of boundless power too late. Proceed, great chief, with virtue on thy side, Thy ev'ry action let the goddess guide, A crown, a mansion and a throne that shine, With gold unfading, Washington! be thine."</p>
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*Phillis Wheatley (1776).*

**FEBRUARY TWENTY-NINTH.**

**1752** Major George Washington paid his respects to the Governor after returning from the Barbados. He wrote to his brother Lawrence: "Waited upon Governor Dinwiddie and was received Graciously. He inquired kindly after the health of myself, and brother, and invited me to stay and dine."

**1780** General Greene wrote from Morristown: "We have opened an assembly at camp. From this apparent ease, I suppose it is thought we must be in happy circumstances. I wish it were so, but alas it is not. Our provisions are in a manner gone. We have not a ton of hay at command, nor magazine to draw from. Money is extremely scarce, and worth little when we get it. We have been so poor in camp for a fortnight, that we could not forward the public dispatches, for want of cash to support the expresses." This dancing-assembly was supported by thirty-five officers subscribing eleven dollars each, Washington heading the list. It is evident they not only bravely endured their privations, but tried to cheer each other.

**1794** President and Mrs. Washington, at the Executive Mansion, Philadelphia, gave a dinner at four o'clock to a party of distinguished guests, among whom were the Hon. John Langdon and his accomplished wife.

"His lofty character heightened the value of every service he rendered, dignified every honor he wore, and glorifies the reverence the world bestows his memory." *John G. Nicolay.*



HARPSICHORD AT MOUNT VERNON.







H. ROBERT NICHOLS.

WASHINGTON'S HEADQUARTERS, MORRISTOWN, NEW JERSEY, 1778.



**MARCH SECOND.**

**1776** "At night a cannonade and bombardment began at the American works on Cobble Hill, and Lechmere's Point on the Cambridge side, and at Lamb's Dam on the Roxbury side, against the British works, and a number of shells were thrown into Boston." The Commander-in-chief was preparing to take post on Dorchester Point,—he said "The ground being so hard frozen yet, that we can not intrench, and therefore are obliged to depend entirely upon chandeliers, fascines, and screwed hay for our redoubts."

**1788** To James Madison, Washington said: "Liberty, when it begins to take root, is a plant of rapid growth. When a people are oppressed with taxes, and have a cause to believe that there has been a misapplication of the money, they illy brook the language of despotism."

**1797** President Washington wrote to his dear friend, General Knox: "Although the prospect of retirement is most grateful to my soul, and I have not a wish to mix again in the great world, or partake of its politics, yet, I am not without my regrets at parting (perhaps never more to meet) the few intimates whom I love; among them be assured you are one." The President this day designated the public reservations in Washington city.

"When the storm of battle blows darkest and rages highest, the memory of Washington shall nerve every American arm and cheer every American breast. It shall re-illumine that Promethean fire, that sublime flame of patriotism, that devoted love of country, which his words have commended, which his example has consecrated." *Rufus Choate (Massachusetts).*

**MARCH THIRD.**

**1793** To Dr. David Stuart, Federal commissioner, Washington wrote: "I am bold in assuring you that no *fixed* salary in the United States from the Chief Magistrate to the Door-Keeper of the House of Representatives is equal to one thousand dollars clear of expenses."

**1797** The President this day sent to the commissioners of the "Federal City" further instructions, which was his last official act. To the Secretary of State, Timothy Pickering, he gave rebutting testimony regarding the "Spurious Letters," requesting this statement be placed in the archives "for the present generation and for posterity." The same day he entertained at a farewell dinner the President-elect, the cabinet, and the diplomatic corps. It is recorded that Washington was in happiest mood on this occasion, rejoicing at his own retirement and jesting at Mr. Adams "entering servitude."

**1799** George Washington of Virginia was made "General and Commander-in-chief of the Provisional army of the United States." Congress abolished the title of Lieutenant-General, and again bestowed upon the beloved commander the one he had so nobly borne during the Revolution.

"And lo! from Vernon's sacred hill,  
Where peaceful spirits love to dwell—  
Where twice retir'd from war's alarms,

"Slept, and awoke, his conquering arms,  
The Hero comes! whose Laurels green  
In bloom eternal shall be seen."  
*Lemuel Hopkins (Connecticut), 1799.*

### MARCH FOURTH.

**1771** Washington "reached Winchester to dinner according to appointment with the officers & c<sup>a</sup> claiming part of the 200,000 acres of land" under Gov. Dinwiddies proclamation. *Washington's Diary.*

**1793** President Washington requested his cabinet to agree upon the ceremony of his second inauguration, as no mode had been prescribed by the Constitution. They decided that the oath should be administered by Chief Justice Cushing, in the senate-chamber, on March the Fourth at noon precisely; and the President, attended by such gentlemen as he might select, should go and return without form, except that he be preceded by the marshal. "Upon his departure from the House the people could no longer restrain obeying the genuine dictates of their hearts; they saluted him with three cheers."

**1797** President Washington accompanied Hon. John Adams to the senate-chamber, Philadelphia, and witnessed the inauguration of that gentleman as the second President of the United States—a graceful precedent which has been generally followed by retiring executives.

"An Englishman by race and lineage, he concentrated in his own person and character every best trait and attribute that had made the Anglo Saxon name a glory to its children and a terror to its enemies throughout the world. But he was not so much an Englishman, that, when the time came for him to be so, he was not even more an American; and in all that he was and did, a patriot so exalted and a leader so great and wise, that, what men called him when he came here to be inaugurated the first President of the United States, the civilized world has not since then ceased to call him—'The Father of his Country.'"

*Henry C. Potter, D. D., Bishop of New York.*

### MARCH FIFTH.

**1756** Colonel Washington, who had arrived in Boston, was sustained by Shirley in the position he had taken in regard to the question of military precedence. There is a legend that while there he sat for a miniature to the distinguished artist John Singleton Copley. During his stay of ten days he attended the sessions of the Legislature, was fêted by prominent citizens, and handsomely entertained by the Governor.

**1776** General Washington took possession of Dorchester Heights. He told his men to "Remember it is the anniversary of the Boston Massacre.—A day never to be forgotten.—Avenge the death of your brethren." When General Howe next morning saw the Americans intrenched, he exclaimed: "The rebels have done more in one night than my men would have done in a month."

**1789** President Washington submitted to his cabinet the letter written him by Louis XVI. upon receiving a copy of our Constitution, presented in the name of the nation: "France shall henceforth be governed, according to its principles," wrote that generous monarch who was soon to expiate the sins of his ancestors.

"His countrymen are charged with fond idolatry of his memory, and his greatness is pleasantly depicted as a mythological exaggeration. But no church ever canonized a saint more worthily than he is canonized by the national affection, and to no ancient hero, benefactor, or lawgiver were divine honors ever so justly decreed as to Washington the homage of the world."

*George William Curtis (New York).*

**MARCH SIXTH.**

**1760** Colonel Washington, interested in improvements in agricultural implements, wrote in his diary at Mount Vernon: "Fitted a two-eyed plow, instead of a Duck Bill plow and with Much difficulty made my chariot wheelhorses plow." He also notes, "Surveyed Capt' Poseys Woodland." This survey by Washington has recently been sold as a valuable autograph manuscript.

**1781** The Commander-in-chief reached Newport and was received as a Marshal of France by Chevalier des Fouches on the flag-ship *Duc de Bourgoyne*. The purpose of this visit was "to level all difficulties" and instruct the French admiral with the hope of giving help to Lafayette in his Virginia campaign. Rochambeau conducted his illustrious guest from the ship to the Vernon House, his headquarters. The town was illuminated; but such was the distress that the citizens could not furnish their own candles, and the town council had provided each a candle, so there should be a light in every house.

**1786** Washington notes in his diary at Mount Vernon: "Returned to the erection of my deer Paddock, which the bad weather had impeaded, brought carts from the Plantation to assist in drawing in the materials for the work." This small park at Mount Vernon is under the bluff, between the mansion and the river, and has been recently reestablished.

"I have never seen a picture that represents Washington to me as I saw him at Valley Forge, and during the campaigns in which I had the honor to follow him. Perhaps that expression was beyond the skill of the painter; but while I live it will remain impressed on my memory."

*Pierre du Ponceau (France).*

**MARCH SEVENTH.**

**1776** The Commander-in-chief enjoined upon his army to remember their pious duty, and observe this day set apart by the Massachusetts Legislature for fasting, humiliation, and prayer. The Orderly Book of the following morning contains this clause: "His Excellency the General returns his thanks to the militia of the surrounding districts, for their spirited and alert march to Roxbury, last saturday and sunday, and for the noble ardor they discovered in defence of the cause of Liberty and their country."

**1781** General Washington attended a ball at Newport given in his honor by Count de Rochambeau in Mrs. Cowley's "Assembly Rooms," which he opened by request of the host. His partner was the beautiful Miss Margaret Champlin, who selected the dance then known as "A Successful Campaign," which had happy significance before the close of the year. The French officers, whom the hero of the New World from the first seems to have fascinated, took the instruments from the musicians and played while Washington and his lovely partner danced the first figure.

"Washington was completely the representative of the wants, the ideas, the knowledge, and the opinions of his time; he seconded instead of thwarting the movement of mind; he aimed at that which it was his duty to aim at; hence, the coherence and perpetuity of his work. . . . My name probably dwelt not a day in his memory. Happy, however, that his looks were cast upon me; I have felt myself warmed for it all the rest of my life. There is a virtue in the looks of a great man."

*Chateaubriand (France).*

**MARCH EIGHTH.**

**1779** Washington wrote from Middlebrook to Lafayette, in Paris: "Nothing of importance has happened since you left us, except the enemies' invasion of Georgia, and possession of its capital. The American Troops are again in Huts, but in a more agreeable and fertile country, than they were in last Winter at Valley Forge; they are better clad and more healthy than they have ever been since the formation of the army. We are happy in the repeated assurance and proofs of the friendship of our great and good ally, whom, we hope and trust, ere this, may be congratulated on the birth of a Prince." Lafayette, in consequence of suffering from his wound, was given an indefinite leave of absence by Congress, and the American minister at Versailles was instructed in the name of the Congress to present to him a handsome sword.

**1789** To Benjamin Harrison, Washington wrote: "My friendship is not in the least lessened by the difference, which has taken place in our political sentiments, nor is my regard for you diminished by the part you have acted. Men's minds are as variant as their faces, and, where the motives to their actions are pure, the operation of the former is no more to be imputed to them as a crime, than the appearance of the latter; for both, being the work of nature, are equally unavoidable."

"He can compliment a friend in playful happy terms on his marriage, as well as thunder his demands for a proper attention to the interests of the country at the doors of Congress. Never vulgar, he frequently uses colloquial phrases with effect, and, unsuspected of being a poet, is fond of figurative expressions."

*Evert A. Duyckinck (New York).*

**MARCH NINTH.**

**1776** The Commander-in-chief through his "secret service" received information from the Selectmen of Boston of the preparations the British troops were making to embark. He placed a battery on Nook's Hill, Dorchester Point, from which was sent a destructive fire. When the cannonade was opened, it caused great surprise and alarm in the town, as they did not know that the Continentals had mortars or shells. The British officers conceded that the shells were well directed, causing much injury and distress, as a large number of the cannon-balls passed through the houses.

**1797** Ex-President Washington left Philadelphia for Mount Vernon, accompanied by his wife; George Washington Lafayette, whom he considered and, being relieved from executive office, could now claim as a member of his household; his adopted children, Eleanor Parke Custis, age eighteen, George Washington Parke Custis, age sixteen; secretaries, clerks, and servants. Washington said it was his third, and he hoped his final, retirement from public life.

"It seems to me that the peculiarity and strength of Washington's character and the key to his success is the great self-possession and calmness that enabled him to judge and to act with foresight and confidence impossible to men of equally forcible traits, who were less disciplined and self-controlled. Other men have had a great military genius, more intellectual capacity, more sympathetic influence over men, but of him it is to be said, 'Better is he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.'"

*Rose Terry Cooke (Connecticut).*

**MARCH TENTH.**

**1776** The Commander-in-chief received instructions from Congress to destroy Boston if necessary, and John Hancock, the patriotic president of Congress, also wrote him that, although he had important property in the city, "not to hesitate to fire upon it." Referring to the probable embarkation of the enemy, Washington said: "I shall order look-outs to be kept upon all the headlands, to discover their movements and course, and moreover direct Commodore Manly and his little squadron to *dog them*."

**1778** To Lafayette, Washington wrote: "You seem to apprehend that censure, proportioned to the disappointed expectations of the world, will fall on you, in consequence of the failure of the Canadian expedition. I am persuaded that every one will applaud your prudence in renouncing a project, in pursuing which you would vainly have attempted physical impossibilities."

**1783** The famous "Newburg Addresses" were distributed in camp, with circulars appointing a meeting of officers the following day. Although national independence had really been achieved, and the world was awaiting the new nation, this was a most critical period, and it is conceded that this incident offered the greatest opportunity of Washington's military career for the exercise of patience and diplomacy. The result proved he was equal to the occasion.

"Then I trembled for my Country, no other man could have saved it."

*General Benjamin Lincoln (1783).*

**MARCH ELEVENTH.**

**1748** Master George Washington, aged sixteen, started with George William Fairfax, in the employ of Thomas, Lord Fairfax, on a tour of survey across the Blue Ridge Mountains. Noted in his diary that, "We made forty miles and dined at Mr. George Neavels, Prince William County."

**1778** General Washington wrote to his lifelong friend George William Fairfax, in London: "I have heard nothing from you these four years, nor been in Virginia these last three. I have heard and fear it is true, that your seat (Belvoir) is verging fast to destruction. Lord Fairfax, as I have been told, after having bowed down to the grave, and in a manner shaken hands with Death, is perfectly restored, and enjoys his usual good health; and as much vigor as falls to the lot of ninety."

**1783** The Commander-in-chief issued a general order censuring the "Newburg Addresses," and appointing a day (15th, at 12 o'clock) to meet in council and consider the grievances of the disaffected officers. He requested the presence of general and field officers, and one officer from each company.

"That act of his life, of all others the most important to his country, has been less noticed than almost any other; yet it was then, and there, *that he again saved his country*; under all circumstances more threatening than any that had preceded them. All the toil that had been suffered, all the blood that had been spilt, would have been suffered and spilt in vain, but for his patriotism, his prudence, and his matchless wisdom, when the arch fiend inspired the writer of the Newburgh letters. At no period of the War of Independence, were the liberties of our country so suspended by a single hair, as on that occasion when the war had ceased."

*E. S. Thomas (South Carolina).*



### MARCH TWELFTH.

**1778** To Governor Clinton, Washington wrote: "The hints which you were pleased to give of mismanagement in the North River command came also from several other hands, and did not a little embarrass me, as they contained charges rather resulting from want of judgement than any real intention to do wrong. It is much to be lamented that we should have officers of so high a rank as to entitle them to claim separate commands with so moderate a share of abilities to direct them in the execution of these commands."

**1782** The Commander-in-chief, exceedingly anxious lest Congress be lulled into false security, in a letter to James McHenry of Maryland, said: "Never since the commencement of the present revolution has there been in my judgement a period, where vigorous measures were more consonant to sound policy than the present. The speech of the British King, and the addresses of the Lords and Commons, are proofs as clear as Holy Writ to me of two things; their wishes to prosecute the American war, and their fears of the consequences."

"Mighty captains and leaders of nations like Washington are, after all, safe from belittling detraction. In their solid broad-based greatness they stand like the Egyptian pyramids, defying time and change, and human impertinence and impiety. Critical cads and petty iconoclasts may scrawl inanities upon them, and clip tons of paper weights from off them, without causing serious defacement or appreciative loss. They are granite, they are porphyry."

*Grace Greenwood (New York).*

### MARCH THIRTEENTH.

**1748** "Rode to his Lordships Quarters, (Greenway Court, seat of Lord Fairfax) about four miles up ye river. Went through most beautiful groves of maple, spent ye best of ye day admiring ye Trees and ye richness of ye land." *Washington's Diary.*

**1778** In reference to "The irruption into Canada," Washington said: "I wish all the men in the upper part of the river had been drawn down to the Highlands instead of being kept to carry on an expedition, in which I was never consulted, but which I saw from the beginning could never succeed. Those who were most sanguine, I fancy, now see the impracticability of it."

**1781** Passing through Bristol, returning from Newport, the Commander-in-chief was received with wild enthusiasm. "The inhabitants clad in their best apparel, stood upon either side of the street according to their sexes, and as he passed showed their respect for him by strewing his path with flowers, evergreens, &c., accompanied by the highest marks of civility. When Washington reached the bridge he turned to the inhabitants, and addressed them in brief but eloquent manner."

"He was not an orator, not even a great talker, a man of few words in public and private; he was not a man of great learning and would have been puzzled to know what some of our modern philosophers mean; he was not a brilliant genius, but he did the things which orators and poets and historians are proud to chronicle. His strength was in himself, and he moved the world by the power of his character."

*Thomas M. Clark, D. D., Bishop of Rhode Island.*

**MARCH FOURTEENTH.**

**1755** Colonel Washington, at Mount Vernon, received from General Braddock, through his aide-de-camp, Captain Orme, an invitation "To join his military family." In accepting he said: "I am not a little biassed by selfish considerations, I wish earnestly to attain some knowledge in the military profession."

**1778** The Commander-in-chief, relieving Colonel Radière, placed Colonel Kosciusko in charge of the fortification at West Point. So well did this accomplished officer perform his duties that Washington said: "To his care and sedulous application the American people are indebted for the defenses of West Point."

**1781** General Washington passed the night at Providence with Jabez Bowen. Upon his arrival the previous evening, he was surrounded by children bearing torches; they crowded around him and called him "Father." He pressed the hand of Count Dumas (his escort who records this incident), and said with great emotion: "We may be beaten by the English, it is in the chance of war; but behold an army which they can never conquer."

"Is Mr. Washington among your acquaintances? If not, I recommend you to embrace the first opportunity to form his friendship. He is about twenty-three years of age; with a countenance both mild and pleasant, promising both wit and judgment. He is of comely and dignified demeanor, at the same time displays much self reliance and decision. He strikes me as being a young man of extraordinary and exalted character, and is destined, to make no inconsiderable figure in our country."

*General Edward Braddock (England), 1755.*

**MARCH FIFTEENTH.**

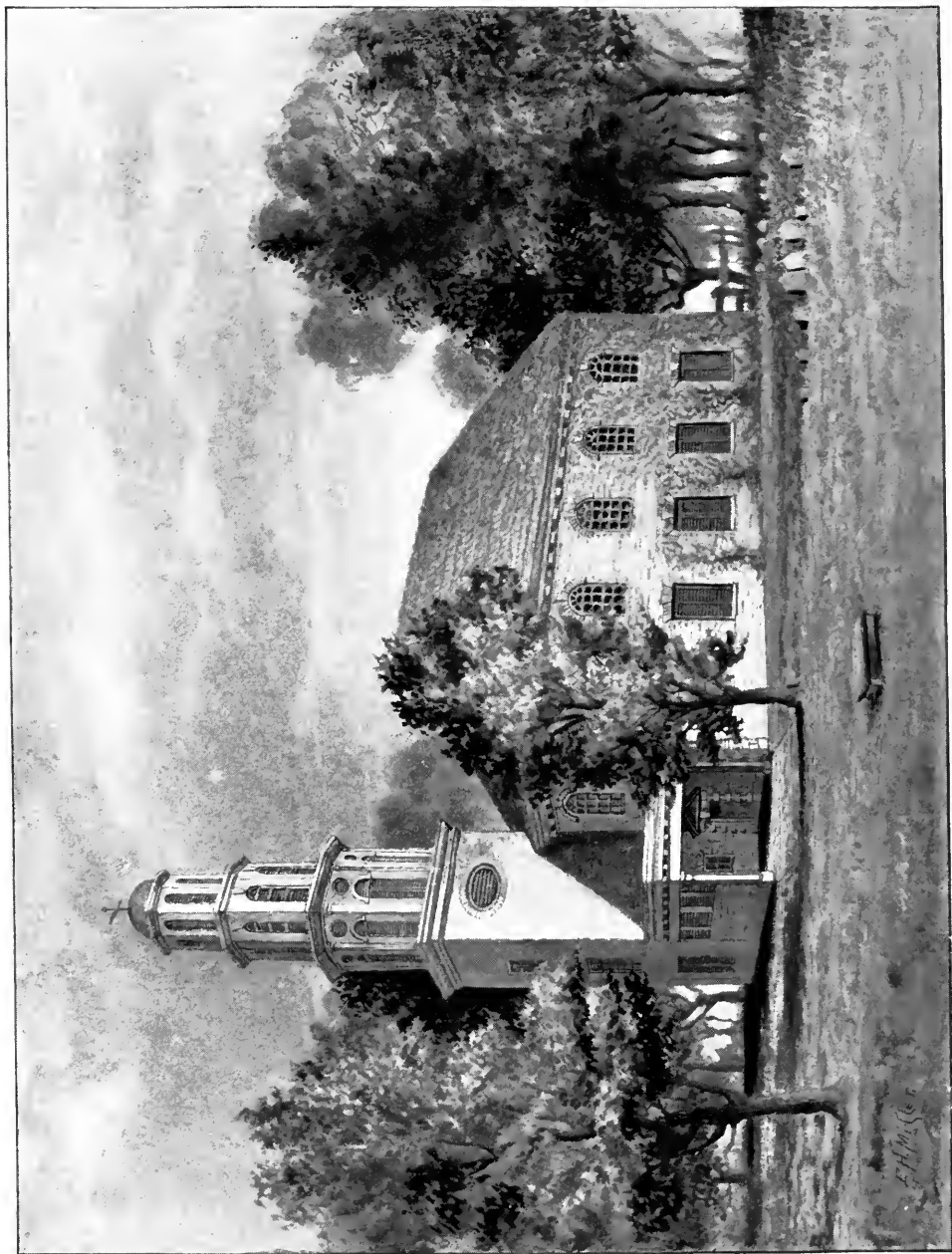
**1779** General Washington, anxiously scanning the characters of the men who at this critical period composed the legislative body, wrote to Governor Thomas Nelson, of Virginia: "It gives me very singular pleasure to find that you have again taken a seat in Congress. I think there never was a time when cool and dispassionate reasoning, staid attention and application, great integrity, and if it were in the nature of things, unerring wisdom, were more to be wished for than at the present."

**1785** Of Rumsey's model for a boat propelled by steam, Washington says: "A view of his model, with the explanations, removed the principal doubt I ever had in my mind of the practicability of propelling against a stream by the aid of mechanical power; but as he wanted to avail himself of my introduction of it to the public attention, I chose previously to see the actual performance of the model in a descending stream before I passed my certificate; and having done so, all my doubts were satisfied."

"Washington seemed to come to the discharge of the duties of his high office with a great sense of his unfamiliarity with these new calls upon him, modestly doubtful of his own ability, but trusting implicitly in the sustaining helpfulness and grace of that God who rules the world, presides in the councils of nations, and is able to supply every human defect. We have made marvelous progress in material things, but the stately and enduring shaft that we have erected at the National Capital at Washington, symbolizes the fact that he is *still* the First American Citizen."

*Benjamin Harrison, President of the United States.*





CHRIST CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA.

**MARCH SIXTEENTH.**

**1776** The Commander-in-chief under heavy cannonading pushed the fortifications at Nook's Hill. The Continentals coolly stood their ground, but did not stop intrenching to return the fire.

**1783** General Washington wrote to the president of Congress of the meeting of the officers, in the New Building, to discuss the Newburg Addresses, General Gates presiding: "It has terminated in a manner which I had reason to expect, from a knowledge of that good sense and steady patriotism of the gentlemen of the army, which on frequent occasions I have discovered." Washington had made a stirring appeal to his discontented officers; and a legend is handed down that when he put on his glasses to read a paragraph, he said: "You see, gentlemen, I have grown blind as well as gray in the service of my country, yet have I never doubted her justice." After speaking, the Commander-in-chief left the hall, that the officers might discuss the subject without embarrassment.

**1792** To Governor Pinckney, of South Carolina, he said: "I was in hopes, that motives of policy, supported by the direful effects of slavery, would have operated to produce a total prohibition of the importation of slaves, whenever the question came to be agitated in any state, that might be interested in the measure."

"Washington understood the rights of mankind and the essential principles of civil and religious liberty, and on these safe foundations, he created our splendid political fabric."

*Charles Burroughs (Maryland).*

**MARCH SEVENTEENTH.**

**1776** The Commander-in-chief, with his staff and general officers, witnessed from the heights of Dorchester the evacuation of the city of Boston by the British troops. Out of compliment to the Irish soldiers in his army, "St. Patrick" was given as the counter-sign, and General John Sullivan was appointed officer of the day. "In honor to the Tutelar Saint of Hibernia, the Quartermaster-General is ordered to issue to the Irish soldiers an extra gill of whiskey." Washington and his officers, a few hours after the departure of the British, attended thanksgiving service and listened to Rev. Dr. Abiel Leonard preach from Exodus xiv. 25: "And took off their chariot wheels, that they drave them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the Lord fighteth for them against the Egyptians."

**1781** General Washington dined with Governor Trumbull at Mr. Platt's, Hartford, and wrote to John Hancock his regrets at not being able to be in Boston this glorious anniversary, saying, "The important operations, which may be expected from the southward, made it necessary for me to return as soon as possible to the North River."

"If the title of great man ought to be reserved for him who cannot be charged with an indiscretion or a vice, who spent his life in establishing the independence, the glory and the durable prosperity of his country, who succeeded in all he undertook, and whose successes were never won at the expense of honor, justice, integrity, or the sacrifice of a single principle, that title will not be denied Washington."

*Jared Sparks (Massachusetts).*

**MARCH EIGHTEENTH.**

**1776** General Washington took formal possession of Boston, placing it under military law; and instituted vigorous sanitary measures, as the city was in a distressing condition consequent upon a long siege. He issued a proclamation forbidding the return of citizens until Boston had been thoroughly cleaned and protected against the infection of smallpox.

**1783** "The Commander-in-chief is highly satisfied with the report of the proceedings of the officers on the 15th, in obedience to the orders of the 11th. He begs his inability to communicate an adequate idea of the pleasing feelings which have been excited in his breast by the affectionate sentiments expressed toward him on that occasion, may be considered as an apology for his silence." *Orderly Book (Newburg)*.

**1786** Washington notes this day in his diary at Mount Vernon, "Got the mound on the left so far completed as to plant, the next largest of my weeping willows, thereon." The week previous is the following: "Finished the mound on the right and planted the largest weeping Willow in my nursery in the center of it — ground too wet to do any thing to the other Mound on the left."

"It is a remarkable fact, that from his youth upward he evinced military capacity beyond that of all the trained and experienced officers, with whom he was associated or brought into conflict. . . . In final contemplation of his character we shall not hesitate to pronounce Washington the greatest of good men and the best of great men." *Edward Everett (Massachusetts)*.

**MARCH NINETEENTH.**

**1760** Colonel Washington placed upon record such practical experiments from time to time as he made in plows. "Peter (my Smith) and I after several efforts to make a plow after a new model partly of my own contriving, was feign to give it out, at least for the present."

**1776** General Washington wrote from Cambridge to the president of Congress: "As soon as the Ministerial troops had quitted the town, I ordered a thousand men (who had had the small pox) under command of General Putnam to take possession of the heights. But as the enemy are still in the harbor, I thought it not prudent to march off with the main body of the army, until I should be satisfied they had quitted the coast. The situation in which I found their works evidently discovered that their retreat was made with the greatest precipitation."

**1779** General Greene, Colonel Wadsworth, and the officers of the artillery gave a ball at Middlebrook in compliment to the Commander-in-chief. General Greene wrote that they had quite a lively little frisk, "and that General Washington and Mrs. Greene danced upwards of three hours without once sitting down."

"In Heaven and Washington we placed reliance,  
We met the proud Britons, and bid them defiance,  
The cause we supported was just, and was glorious,  
When men fight for freedom, they must be victorious."

*Francis Hopkinson (Pennsylvania).*

### MARCH TWENTIETH.

**1775** Colonel Washington attended the second Virginia Convention, held at Richmond, and was chosen a member of the second General Congress, to meet in Philadelphia. He was one of the enthusiastic listeners to Patrick Henry's eloquent speech—"An appeal to arms and the God of Hosts is all that is left for us." He wrote his younger brother, John Augustine, encouraging him in the effort to raise a company, promising to review it, and said: "It is my intention to spend my life and fortune in the cause we are engaged in, if needful."

**1776** The Commander-in-chief at the head of the main body of the army entered Boston, and was received by the people with the wildest expressions of joy and gratitude. He said: "The town although it has suffered greatly, is not in so bad a state as I expected to find it."

**1778** Washington, in special order to General Lacey, said: "Sunday next being the time on which the Quakers hold one of their general meetings, a number of that society will probably be attempting to go into Philadelphia. This is an intercourse that we should by all means endeavor to interrupt, as the plans settled at these meetings are of most pernicious tendency. I would therefore have you dispose of your parties in such a manner as will most probably fall in with these people."

"The singular trials, virtues, talents and services of our hero during the late war, are best seen in his official letters."  
*David Tappan, D. D. (Massachusetts).*

### MARCH TWENTY-FIRST.

**1760** Colonel Washington, at Mount Vernon, noted, "This day grafted 41 cherry trees, 12 magnum bonum plumbs and planted 4 nuts of the Mediterranean pines. The cherries and plums came from Colonel Masons; the nuts from Mr. Greens."

**1782** General Washington and his wife, the French minister, and Baron Steuben attended the commencement exercises of the University of Pennsylvania, in the old hall on Fourth street below Arch, Philadelphia. The audience was large and distinguished, including the members of Assembly and the Supreme Executive Council of the State.

**1791** President Washington left Philadelphia for Mount Vernon, where after a short and much needed repose he started on his Southern tour. He received from officials and citizens of Maryland every mark of respect and affection, and all seemed to vie "with each other to make their distinguished guest sensible of the gratitude of a free and enlightened people."

"The mind of Washington was eminently practical; his perceptive faculties were strongly developed; the sense of beauty and the power of expression, those endowments, so large in the scholar and the poet, were the least active in his nature; but the observing powers whereby space is measured at a glance and the physical qualities noted correctly, the reflective instincts through which just ideas of facts and circumstances are realized. These noble and efficient properties eminently distinguished his mental organization and were exhibited as its normal traits from childhood to age."  
*Henry Theodore Tuckerman (Massachusetts).*

**MARCH TWENTY-SECOND.**

**1776** General Washington issued a command from Cambridge, that all officers of the Continental army should assist the civil authorities in preserving good order. The colonels were officially notified that "they would be held responsible for any damage done the Barracks," which were the University Buildings.

**1781** Washington, from New Windsor, wrote to Joseph Willard, corresponding secretary of the American Academy (Boston): "I am much indebted to you for announcing my election, as a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. I feel myself particularly honored by this relation to a Society, whose efforts to promote useful knowledge will, I am persuaded, acquire them a high reputation in the literary world."

**1783** In the *Orderly Book*, Newburg, appears the following: "In justice to the zeal and ability of the Chaplains, as well as to his own feelings, the Commander-in-chief thinks it a duty to declare that the regularity and decorum with which Divine Service is performed every Sunday, will reflect great credit on the army in general, tend to improve the morals, and at the same time increase the happiness of the soldiery, and must afford the most pure, rational entertainment for every serious and well disposed mind."

"As civilization shall perfect itself and character become the basis of renown, the fame of George Washington will increase, and he will stand forth a grand Doric column, simple and sublime."  
*Elizabeth Oakes Smith (Maine).*

**MARCH TWENTY-THIRD.**

**1748** George Washington's "Journal of Survey" (at the age of sixteen) has the following description of an Indian war-dance: "They clear a Large circle & make a great Fire in ye middle. Men seat themselves around it. Ye speaker makes a grand speech. After he has finished ye best Dancer jumps up as one awaked out of a sleep, & Runs & Jumps about ye Ring in a most comicle manner. Ye musick is a Pot half full of water, with a Deerskin stretched over it, & a goard with some shot in it to rattle, & a Piece of an horse's tail tied to it to make it look fine."

**1793** There was a general fear that the United States would be drawn into foreign complications. The President said: "All our late accounts from Europe hold up the expectation of a general war. I ardently wish we may not be forced into it by the conduct of other nations. If we are permitted to improve without interruption the great advantages, which nature and circumstances have placed within our reach, many years will not revolve, before we may be ranked among the most responsible, and happiest people on this globe."

"Few men who have earned for themselves a celebrated name in the history of the world exhibit such a harmony, such a concordant symmetry of all the qualities calculated to render himself and others happy, as Washington; and it has been very appropriately observed that, like the masterpieces of ancient art,—he must be the more admired in the aggregate, the more closely he is examined in detail."  
*George von Raumer (Holland).*



**MARCH TWENTY-FOURTH.**

**1778** The Commander-in-chief reported from Valley Forge: "As it is not improper for Congress to have some idea of the present temper of the army, it may not be amiss to remark in this place, that, since the month of August last, between two and three hundred officers have resigned their commissions, and many others were with difficulty dissuaded from it."

**1791** The President and secretary embarked at Rock Hall, Eastern Shore, for Annapolis. There was a severe storm; the boat, being badly managed, ran ashore at the mouth of the Severn River, where they remained in peril and extreme discomfort until morning. Governor Howell and the citizens who were prepared to receive him felt great uneasiness.

**1799** General Washington in a letter to Dr. Thornton, one of the commissioners of the Federal Territory, regarding his secretary, Colonel Tobias Lear, who was suffering with rheumatism in his feet, said: "It would be well for him to remain in the Federal City as long as he could derive benefit to his *understanding* from your friendly perscriptions."

"Every citizen of these states, will be penetrated with astonishment and kindled into thanksgiving, when he reflects that our globe had existed 6000 years before Washington appeared in the theatre of the world; and that he was then destined to appear in America, to be the ornament, the deliverer, the protector, the delight." *Rev. Dr. Wharton (New Jersey).*

**MARCH TWENTY-FIFTH.**

**1776** On the resolution of John Adams, Congress voted unanimously that the thanks of the country be tendered to the Commander-in-chief, and that a gold medal be presented to him, commemorative of the evacuation of Boston. This medal was executed in Paris by Duvivier under the supervision of Thomas Jefferson and Colonel Humphreys, and presented to Washington in 1786. It was purchased from a member of the Washington family by fifty citizens of Boston, and on the centenary of the evacuation presented to the city, and is now deposited in the public library. This medal is, and must forever remain, the most significant medallic memorial of this country.

**1779** In Reading, Mass., at a public festival of the American Union Lodge, the first toast given was, "General Washington," and the second was, drunk in silence, standing, to "The memory of Warren, Montgomery and Wooster, three distinguished Masons who had fallen on the battle-fields of the Revolution." A toast to Washington from this date has been the first in order in all Masonic festivals.

**1790** The new Trinity Church, New York, was consecrated; Bishop Samuel Provoost officiated. The President, Mrs. Washington, and their two children occupied a handsomely draped pew, which the wardens, John Jay and James Duane, had selected and arranged for the Executive family.

"George Washington was a nobleman by birth and nurture; a warrior of warriors; a statesman of statesmen, but it was his crowning glory that he was a Christian."

*Richard Hooker Wilbur, Bishop of Alabama.*

**MARCH TWENTY-SIXTH.**

**1781** The Commander-in-chief wrote to General Armstrong: "The many remarkable interpositions of the divine Government in the hours of our deepest distress and darkness, have been too luminous to suffer me to doubt the happy issue of the present contest, but the period for its accomplishment may be too far distant for a person of my years, whose morning and evening hours and every moment, pants for retirement and for those domestic and rural enjoyments which in my estimation far surpass the highest pageantry of this world."

**1789** General Washington, having assurance that he was the people's choice for Chief Executive, made every preparation to respond to the summons of Congress to take the Executive office. He wrote his nephew Robert Lewis: "I have selected you to escort your aunt to Philadelphia, and you will be advised by your cousin George Washington, in time to be at Mount Vernon and commence your Squire-ship."

**1798** Washington, in explaining why the department buildings were located so far from the Capitol, said: "It was the universal complaint of them all, that while the Legislature was in session, they could do little or no business; so much were they interrupted by the individual visits of members (in office hours) and by calls for papers. Many of them have declared to me, that they have been obliged often to go home and deny themselves in order to transact the current business."

"His mind was altogether practical, commanding and original."

*Thomas Caldwell, M. D. (New York).*

**MARCH TWENTY-SEVENTH.**

**1760** In consequence of his wife's delicate health, following a severe attack in January of measles, accompanied with serious complications, Washington remained chiefly at home, not even going to Williamsburg, and this entry gives a sample of the manner he was occupied: "Set my plow to work and found she answered very well in the lower pasture, w<sup>ch</sup> I this day began plowing with the large bay mare and Rankin. Agreed to give Mr. Wm Triplet £18 to build me two houses in the front of my house (plastering them also,) and running walls for palisades to them from the great house, and from the great house to the wash house and kitchen also."

**1779** From Middlebrook, Washington wrote to his friend George Mason: "I view things very differently, I fear, from what the people in general do, who seem to think the contest at an end, and to make money, and to get places the only thing now remaining to do. I have beheld no day since the commencement of hostilities, that I have thought her liberties in such imminent danger as at Present."

"Washington was grave in manners but perfectly easy. There was a commanding air in his presence which compelled respect, and forbade too great a freedom towards him, independently of that species of awe which is always felt in the moral influence of a great character. In every movement, too, there was a polite gracefulness equal to any met with, in the most polished individuals in Europe, and his smile was extraordinarily attractive. It was observed to me there was an expression in Washington's face that no painter had succeeded in taking."

*William Hazlitt (England).*

### MARCH TWENTY-EIGHTH.

**1774** Colonel Washington was chosen vestryman of Fairfax Parish, Christ Church, Alexandria, Va. He made this entry in his diary at Mount Vernon: "Bought at Alexandria the sloop *Ann and Elizabeth* for one hundred and seventy-five pounds."

**1776** The Commander-in-chief, accompanied by his suite and the general officers, the General Assembly of Massachusetts, the Boston City Council, and other civil officials, attended, in a body, the "Thursday Lecture" at the Old Brick Meeting House. Dr. Andrew Eliot delivered a thanksgiving sermon. This divine had remained in Boston during the siege, and gave the General a very interesting account of his experiences. After the service the notables dined together at the "Bunch of Grapes," where dinner was provided by the city. "Joy and gratitude sat on every countenance, and smiled in every eye."

**1778** "The Baron Steuben, a Lieutenant-General in foreign service, and a gentleman of great military experience, having obligingly undertaken to exercise the office of Inspector-General in the Army, the Commander-in-chief, till the pleasure of Congress be known, desires he may be respected and obeyed as such, and hopes and expects that all officers, of whatever rank, will afford him every aid in their power in the execution of his office." *Orderly Book (Valley Forge)*.

"By an instinct which is unerring we call Washington, with grateful reverence, 'The Father of His Country.'"  
*William Ellery Channing, D. D. (Rhode Island).*

### MARCH TWENTY-NINTH.

**1776** General Washington, at Cambridge, received an address from the "General Assembly of Massachusetts Bay." He wrote the following characteristic instructions to Major-General Putnam in ordering him to New York: "Upon your arrival there, you will assume the command, and immediately proceed in continuing to execute the plan proposed by Major-General Lee, for fortifying that city, and securing the passes of the East and North Rivers. Your long service and experience will, better than any particular directions at this distance, point out to you the works most proper to be first raised; and your perseverance, activity and zeal will lead you, without my recommending it, to exert every nerve to disappoint the enemy's designs."

**1777** Washington was encouraged by the arrival at Philadelphia of 11,000 stands of French arms, "which with those recently received at Portsmouth would make our supply respectable." He was also gratified by an assurance from Rev. Dr. Kirkland, Oneida missionary, "that the evidence of friendship from France would probably keep several of the Indian nations neutral."

"After the glorious battle of Bunker Hill, Congress sent an officer to command the Armies, who had seen war in a former epoch, and who had conciliated all the spirits in Congress, and in the Provincial assemblies by his sagacity, his ability, his firm moderation and temperance in all things, and who more recently has become a great man, and as one has said, 'the greatest of great men:' that officer was Washington."  
*Sismondi (France).*

**MARCH THIRTIETH.**

**1783** General Washington thanked Congress "for the communication which you have been pleased to make to me, and the army, of the glorious news of a general peace." These despatches were sent from Paris by the Marquis de Lafayette, on the armed frigate *Triomphe*, which was permitted by the French monarch to bear the tidings to America, that the commissioners at Paris had on January 20th signed the General Treaty of Peace. To General Greene, he said: "It remains only for the States to be wise, and to establish their independence on the basis of *an inviolable efficacious union*, and a firm confederation, which may prevent their being made the sport of European policy."

**1791** President Washington personally inspected the land, met the landholders, and convinced them that it was to their interest to make concessions, and issued from Georgetown the proclamation fixing the boundary lines of the Federal District, ten miles square, "on the banks of the Potomac where the seat of government should be permanently located." The landholders agreed to surrender one half of the lands they held, on condition, "that for the squares for public buildings, they shall be paid 25 pounds per acre, and when the whole shall be surveyed and laid off as a city by Major L'Enfant, the present proprietors shall retain every other lot." Later they wished to dictate what use should be made of the public squares. Washington said: "This is absurd."

"His fame, bounded by no country, will be confined to no age."

*Sir William Hamilton (England).*

**MARCH THIRTY-FIRST.**

**1754** Major Washington at Alexandria received a commission as lieutenant-colonel, from Governor Dinwiddie, bearing date the fifteenth. Two days later he left with two companies of one hundred and fifty men to join Captain Trent as an advance-guard of Colonel Fry's expedition to the Ohio, to erect forts and defend the British possessions.

**1776** To his brother John, the Commander-in-chief wrote: "The enemy left all their works standing in Boston and on Bunker's Hill; and formidable they are. The town has shared a much better fate than was expected, the damage done to the houses being nothing equal to report. But the inhabitants have suffered a good deal, in being plundered by the soldiery at their departure." Referring to the Tories, he said: "One or two have done, what a great number ought to have done long ago, committed suicide."

**1779** Washington from Middlebrook wrote to James Warren in Massachusetts: "Let vigorous measures be adopted, to punish speculators forestallers & extortioners, and above all to sink the money by heavy taxes, to promote public & private economy and to encourage manufactures. Measures of this sort, gone heartily into by the several states would strike at once at the root of all our evils, and give the *coup de grace* to the British hope, of subjugating this continent either by their arms or their acts."

"The want of the age is a European Washington."

*Lamartine (France).*





*Drawn by DeLANCEY W. GILL.*

FEDERAL HALL, NEW YORK, 1789.  
After an old print.



## APRIL FIRST.

**1777** When Elias Boudinot, the devoted philanthropist, refused to accept the position of "Commissary of Prisons," Washington from Morristown replied: "I have nothing in view, but the Salvation of this Country; but it is impossible to accomplish it alone, and if men of character and influence will not come forward and join in my exertions all will be lost." Upon this appeal Mr. Boudinot undertook the onerous duties, and it is doubtful if a man better adapted for the work could have been selected. Congress appointed him "Commissary-General of Prisoners," with a colonel's pay, and permitted him to choose two assistants.

**1782** The Commander-in-chief having arrived the night before at Newburg from Philadelphia, where he had been in consultation with Congress since the 26th of November, was welcomed most cordially by officers and soldiers.

**1787** With evident gratification General Washington notes: "In the evening one Young, who lives on Col. Ball's place, a farmer, came here to see, he says, my drill plow & staid all night." Washington left no statement of having his plows patented; but notes in the following autumn: "A packing box for a plow model, one hundred and fifty nails used in making box."

**1789** To General Knox, Washington wrote: "My movements to the chair of government will be accompanied by feelings, not unlike those of a culprit, who is going to the place of his execution; so unwilling am I, in the evening of a life nearly consumed in public cares, to quit a peaceful abode for an ocean of difficulties, without that competency of political skill, abilities, and inclination, which are necessary to manage the helm. I am sensible that I am embarking the voice of the people, and a good name of my own on this voyage; but what returns will be made for them, Heaven alone can foretell. Integrity and firmness are all I can promise."

"The character of Washington may want some of those poetical elements which dazzle and delight the multitude, but it possessed fewer inequalities and a rarer union of virtues than perhaps ever fell to the lot of one man. Prudence, firmness, sagacity, moderation, an overruling judgment, an immovable justice, courage that never faltered, patience that never wearied, truth that disdained all artifice, magnanimity without alloy. It seems as if Providence had endowed him in a pre-eminent degree with the qualities requisite to fit him for the high destiny he was called upon to fulfill. The fame of Washington stands apart from every name in history: shining with a truer light and a more benignant glory. . . . Glory, that blatant word which haunts so many military minds like the bray of the trumpet, formed no part of his aspirations. To act justly was his instinct, to promote the public weal his constant effort, to deserve the affection of good men, his ambition."

*Washington Irving (New York).*

## APRIL SECOND.

**1748** George Washington when surveying in the Shenandoah Valley noted in his journal: "Last night was a blowing rainy night. Our straw catch'd a Fire, we were laying upon. We did two Lots & was attended by a great Company of People, men, women, & children, that attended us through ye woods as we went, shewing their antick tricks. I really think they seem to be as ignorant a set of people as the Indians. They would never speak English but when spoken to, they speak all Dutch."

**1755** Mary Washington came to Mount Vernon alarmed, having heard her son thought of joining the Braddock expedition. Colonel Washington wrote this day Captain Orme at Alexandria, inclosing "a small map of the back country, which though imperfect, and roughly drawn, for want of proper instruments, may give you a better knowledge of the parts designated than you have hitherto had an opportunity of acquiring."

"I made the war, which has proved so fatal to my country, that the treaty entered into long ago with father Washington might not be broken. To his friendly arm I hold fast. I will never break that chain of friendship we made together, and which bound us to stand to the United States. He was a father to the Muscoga people; and not only to them, but to all the people beneath the Sun. His talk I now hold in my hand. The British can no more persuade us to do wrong; they have deceived us once, and can deceive us no more. You are two great peoples. If you go to war, we will have no concern in it. I talk thus, knowing that Father Washington advised us never to interfere in wars. He told us that those in peace were the happiest people. He told us that if the enemy attacked him, he had warriors enough, and did not wish his red children to help him."

*Big Warrior to General Jackson (1814).*

## APRIL THIRD.

**1773** Colonel Washington wrote from Mount Vernon to Benedict Calvert, Esq., approving of the engagement of his son-in-law and ward Mr. Custis, and Miss Eleanor Calvert, but wished the marriage delayed "in consideration of his youth, inexperience, and unripened education. If the affection which they have avowed for each other, is fixed upon a solid basis, it will receive no diminution in the course of two or three years."

**1776** The Commander-in-chief this day was made "First LL. D. of Harvard College." The diploma is thus worded: "The Corporation of Harvard College, in Cambridge, in New England, constituted and created the aforesaid Gentleman, George Washington, who merits the highest honor, Doctor of Laws,—the Law of Nature and Nations, and the Civil Law." The president said: "We bestow on one, who by the signal smiles of Divine Providence on his military operations, drove the Fleet and Troops of the enemy with disgraceful precipitation from the Town of Boston, the Degree of Doctor of Laws."

**1790** President Washington notified the "Senate House of Congress," that he approved the act accepting the cession to the U. S. of the Territory of Tennessee from the State of North Carolina, and the ceding of "The Light House at the Hook" from the State of New York.

"In peace and in war we contemplate in Washington a highly finished character. Often are the brilliant qualities of the warrior shaded with the deep vices of the man, for the unprincipled may be fired with thoughts of military glory;—but Washington's heroism was the heroism of virtue, not of ambition."

*John Thornton Kirkland, LL. D., President of Harvard.*



### APRIL FOURTH.

**1776** General Washington, at Cambridge, received an address from the Selectmen of Boston, thanking him for the delivery of their city. Leaving General Artemus Ward in command, he started for New York, and was met at Providence by Governor Cooke and council. The following evening a handsome ball was given in his honor by the citizens.

**1784** Washington wrote to Marchioness de Lafayette, inclosing charming notes to George Washington and Mlle. Virginie de Lafayette. To the mother he said: "You must have a curiosity to see the country young, rude and uncultivated as it is, for the liberties of which your husband has fought, bled and acquired much glory, where every body admires and every body loves him. Come then let me entreat you and call my cottage your home, for your own doors do not open to you with more readiness than mine."

**1797** Master Mason Ex-President Washington attended a dinner given him by his own lodge in Alexandria, Va. This lodge is very rich in Washingtoniana, having an original portrait, the chair which he used as presiding officer, and the regalia embroidered by the nuns of Nantes.

"The immortal Washington, himself a Free Mason, devoted his hand, his heart, his sacred honor, and if need be his life also, to the cause of freedom of conscience, of speech, and of action, and from his successful leading has arisen this nation."

*Myron M. Parker, G. M. (Washington, D. C.).*

### APRIL FIFTH.

**1758** Colonel Washington, with characteristic modesty, and acting on a principle to which he firmly held through life, to accept no favors, wrote to his merchant, Richard Washington, London: "You are pleased to Dub me with a Title I have no pretensions to, that is, Ye Hon'ble." At the same time he gave an order to procure him a handsome outfit which proved to include his wedding suit.

**1783** General Washington wrote from Newburg to Lafayette, in Paris, his grave fears for the action of the young Republic, saying, "We stand now an Independent people and have yet to learn political Tactics. We are placed among the nations of the Earth and have a character to establish; but how shall we acquit ourselves, time must discover. The probability is that local or State politics will interfere too much with the more liberal and extensive plan of government, which wisdom and foresight, freed from the mist of prejudice, would dictate."

**1792** President Washington vetoed the Apportionment of Representatives Bill, giving as a reason, "That the Constitution provides for the representation of the people." The first exercise of this constitutional right naturally excited the jealous old patriots.

"In thinking about Washington I have always been surprised by the almost unequalled balance that he was enabled to preserve between the centrifugal force of greatness and the centripetal force of goodness. The first alone would have made him a brilliant meteor; the last alone would have held him in some quiet station of life; the two combined made him history's most shining star."

*Frances Elizabeth Willard (New York).*

## APRIL SIXTH.

**1778** Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Pleasants, and Mrs. Drinker (Quaker ladies) arrived this day at Valley Forge to arrange if possible a way by which they might communicate with their friends who were prisoners at Winchester, Va. Mrs. Drinker, in her journal, says: "We requested an audience with the General, and sat with his wife (a sociable, pretty kind of woman) until he came in. It was not long before G. Washington came, and discoursed with us freely, but not so long as we could have wished, as dinner was served, to which he invited us."

**1789** In accordance with resolution, the first Congress under the Constitution met in New York "on the first Wednesday in March," which was the 4th day of that month. So tardily did the members arrive, that a quorum was not present until this day. When the electoral returns were opened, it was found that George Washington of Virginia was chosen President of the United States.

**1794** President Washington, indignant over a fraud, wrote his manager at Mount Vernon: "The imposition with respect to the garden seeds is very unjustifiable; 'tis infinitely worse than simple robbery, for there you lose your money *only*; but when it is given for bad seed you lose your money, your labor in preparing for the reception of them, and a whole season."

"Not feeling the lust of power, and ambitious only for honorable fame, he devoted himself to his country upon disinterested principles, and his actions were not the semblance but the reality of virtue."  
*Aaron Bancroft (Massachusetts).*

## APRIL SEVENTH.

**1791** The President left Mount Vernon on his Southern tour, and records in his journal: "In attempting to cross the ferry at Colchester with the four horses hitched to the chariot by the neglect of the person who stood before them, one of the leaders got overboard when the boat was in swimming water and 50 yards from the shore, with much difficulty he escaped drowning before he could be disengaged. His struggling frightened the others, and in quick succession they all got overboard. Providentially, indeed miraculously, by the exertions of people who went off in Boats & jumped into the River as soon as the Batteau was forced into wading water no damage was sustained by the horses, Carriage or harness."

**1796** To Andrew Parks, a suitor of his orphan niece, the President wrote: "My wish is to see Harriet happy; one step towards which, is for her to be united with a gentleman of respectable connections; and of good disposition; with one who is more in the habit of making than in spending money; and who can support her in the way she has always lived." To his sister he said: "I would prefer that Harriet would remain single until we are at Mount Vernon; she would then be in the way of seeing much company and would have a much fairer chance of matching respectably."

"Many great and illustrious men have equaled George Washington in some one or other single quality; but scarcely any man of ancient or modern times, possessed a mental and moral constitution of such beautiful, complete and uniform development."

*Samuel M. Smucker (Pennsylvania).*

### APRIL EIGHTH.

**1781** The Commander-in-chief, from New Windsor, wrote Gov. Livingstone: "Intelligence has been sent to me by a gentleman living near the enemy's lines, who has an opportunity of knowing what passes among them, that four parties have been sent out with orders to take or assassinate your Excellency, Governor Clinton, myself and a fourth person whose name is not known."

**1786** "Rid a little after sunrise to Muddy Hole to try my drill plow again, which with the alteration of the harrow yesterday, I find will fully answer my expectation; and that it drops the grains thicker, or thinner in proportion to the quantity of seed in the Barrel; the less there is in it the faster it issues from the holes; the weight of a quantity in a barrel occasions (I presume) a pressure on the holes that do not admit of a free discharge of the seed through them." *Washington's Diary*.

**1791** This day President Washington arrived at his early home, and notes: "Dined and lodged with my sister Lewis at Fredricksburg." On the 10th he proceeded to Richmond. "Left Fredricksburgh about 6 o'clock — myself, Maj: Jackson and one Servant breakfasted at General Spotswoods — the rest of my Servants continued on to Todd's Ordinary where they also breakfasted. Dined at the Bowling Green — and lodged at Kenner's Tavern 14 miles farther — in all 35 m."

"A man whom the adverse forces of the world have not been able to wreck, a lover of perfection, who had so wrought it out in his own character, that to know him was to be awed into veneration of his virtues."

*James Lane Allen (Kentucky).*

### APRIL NINTH.

**1776** General Washington arrived at New London, from Norwich, Connecticut, where at the house of Jedediah Huntington, Esq., he had conferred with Governor Trumbull. He remained through the night at Captain Nathaniel Shaw's, and with Captain Hopkins discussed plans for the organization and establishment of a naval force.

**1781** General Washington wrote to Colonel John Laurens, commissioner at Paris, in regard to the French fleet not reaching the Chesapeake to support Lafayette: "The failure of this expedition, which was the most flattering in the commencement, is much to be regretted; because a successful blow in that quarter would, in all probability, have given a decisive turn to our affairs in all the Southern States; because it has been attended with considerable expense on our part, and much inconvenience to the State of Virginia, by the assembly of its militia; because the world are disappointed at not seeing Arnold in Gibbets."

**1783** The Commander-in-chief received from General Sir Guy Carleton despatches which had arrived from England announcing the conclusion of a general peace. Replying, he said: "I shall be happy in the momentary expectation of having it in my power to publish to the American Army a general cessation of hostilities between Great Britain and America."

"General Washington is not the idol of a day, but the hero of ages. . . . The whole range of history does not present to our view a character upon which we can dwell with such pure and entire admiration."

*London Courier (1800).*

## APRIL TENTH.

**1790** President Washington approved the first Patent Law passed by the Congress of the United States. In his first annual address to that body, he had urged the introduction of useful foreign inventions and the encouragement of inventors at home. He had shown an unflagging interest in all mechanical advancement, especially that pertaining to agriculture. He believed in the possibility of utilizing steam as a power to propel vessels; encouraged Rumsey and Fitch, having examined their models and seen Rumsey's boat in motion.

**1792** Washington, in thanking Archbishop Carroll, with whom he held most friendly relations, for his pious and benevolent work in instructing the Indians in the principles and duties of Christianity, said: "The most effectual means of securing the permanent attachment of our savage neighbors is to convince them that we are just, and to show them that a proper and friendly intercourse with us would be for our mutual advantage."

"Washington was a man all over—a man with strong appetites, fierce temper, positive, belligerent, and aggressive. The quality in which he differed from almost all men was his absolutely perfect control over his passions and his mind. In his boyhood he appreciated the weak points of his character—his tendency to be moved by impulse and sudden tempests of emotion; and he set himself deliberately at work to correct these faults. His fortitude, his patience, his perseverance, his tenacity, were all the result of this introspection, and, taken with the severe physical training of his youth, in the woods with his horse and gun, in the forest with his hatchet and surveyor's compass, fitted him for control over the wills of other men, and rendered him capable of dealing with great affairs, when the time called for those qualities."

*Bradley T. Johnston (Maryland).*

## APRIL ELEVENTH.

**1776** The Commander-in-chief arrived in New Haven on his way to New York, having passed the previous night in Lyme at the house of John McCurdy. In answer to an appeal from Captain McKay, who was a prisoner in Hartford, he said: "The situation of your family is indeed distressing, but such is the event of war; it is far from being singular. The brave Colonel Allen, an officer of rank, has been torn from his dearest connections, sent to England in irons, and is now confined to the most servile drudgery on board one of the King's Ships."

**1796** President Washington made an appointment to sit to Gilbert Stuart for a portrait, at the request of Senator and Mrs. Bingham, who wished to present it to that stanch friend of America, the Marquis of Lansdowne. The artist produced a full-length portrait, rich in tone, and greatly approved by contemporaries. Upon its reception this nobleman was so much gratified that he declared, but for his age, he would cross the Atlantic to thank Washington for sitting. Upon his death it was sold at auction with his personal effects, and in 1824 was again in the market and disposed of by lottery, bringing £2000. This painting is now the property of Lord Rosebery. In 1876 John Delaware Lewis, M. P., then its owner, permitted this portrait to be exhibited at our national Centennial celebration in Philadelphia.

"It is not in the grasp of any painter to hold the dignity and mightiness of the great subject. There is a concealed, though not unconquered, passion working within him, which rendered him a somewhat painful subject."

*James Sharpless (England).*

### APRIL TWELFTH.

**1743** Augustine Washington, the father of George Washington, died at his seat near Fredericksburg, Stafford County, Virginia, aged 49. He was married twice and left six children. The "home farm," on which he died, he bequeathed to George, his third son, and oldest child of the second marriage.

**1748** George Washington in his survey in the Shenandoah Valley noted: "The Trough is a couple of Ledges of Mountains, impassable, running side & side together for above 7 or 8 miles & ye river down between them. You must ride round ye back of ye mountain for to get below them. After we had pitched our Tents & made a very large Fire, we pulled out our knapsack in order to Recruit ourselves. Everyone was his own cook. Our Spits was forked Sticks, our Plates was a large chip; as for Dishes, we had none. This day see a Rattled snake, ye first we had seen in all our journey."

**1791** President Washington spent several days in Richmond, on his Southern tour, which proved to be his last visit to the capital of Virginia. He was entertained by Governor Henry Lee, the famous cavalry officer, made a careful study of the city's improvements, received and answered addresses from citizens, and thanked them with characteristic simplicity "for the very favorable sentiments you express to me."

"Virginia in giving this illustrious patriot to the whole country recognizes the fact, that though one State may contain the locality of his birth and the place of his burial, no one State can bind his boundless fame."  
*Fitzhugh Lee (Virginia).*

### APRIL THIRTEENTH.

**1776** The Commander-in-chief arrived in New York, attended by Adjutant-General Gates and his aide-de-camp William Palfrey. He established his headquarters on Pearl Street, near Cedar, remaining six weeks, where from many sources he received expressions of admiration and gratitude upon the happy termination of his first campaign. He found much to commend in General Schuyler's management and work in the Department of New York.

**1777** Washington wrote to Patrick Henry: "It gives me much concern to hear that the recruiting service proceeds so slowly in most of the states. That it is the case in Virginia affects me in a peculiar manner. I am induced to believe, that the apprehension of the small pox, and its calamitous consequences have greatly retarded the enlistments."

**1791** This extract from his diary at Richmond makes it evident that the President, "though on pleasure bent," did not discard all official cares: "Fixed with Colonel Carrington (the Supervisor of the District) the surveys of Inspection and named the characters for them; an acct. of which, was transmitted to the Secretary of the Treasury."

"As the incidents of his age are more generally known, as the historian throws more light on its stirring movements and the rapid scenes shift from home to camp, from camp to legislative assembly, from the farm to the Presidency and back again to the retirement of his estate, the halo deepens around him, and each fact in his life acquires a charm and poetry of its own."  
*Rabbi A. S. Isaacs (New York).*

### APRIL FOURTEENTH.

**1755** "The Congress of Alexandria," consisting of five Colonial governors, convened: Shirley of Massachusetts; Delancy of New York; Morris of Pennsylvania; Sharp of Maryland; Dinwiddie of Virginia. General Braddock and Captain Kepple appeared before the august body; also Colonel Washington. This young officer made a fine impression; he was not entirely unknown, they having seen the journal of his mission to Fort le Bœuf in the autumn of 1753.

**1789** Charles Thomson, secretary of Congress, delivered to Washington at Mount Vernon the following letter from President John Langdon: "I have the honor to transmit to your Excellency the information of your unanimous election to the office of President of the United States of America. Suffer me sir to indulge the hope that so auspicious a mark of public confidence will meet with your approbation, and be considered as a pledge of the affection and support you are to expect from a free and enlightened people." In response General Washington said to Secretary Thomson: "I have been accustomed to pay so much respect to the opinion of my fellow citizens, that the knowledge of their having given their unanimous suffrages in my favor scarcely leaves me the alternative for an option. I will be ready to accompany you the day after to-morrow."

"Sir: Give me leave to pray your attention with his Lordship in favor of Col. George Washington, who I will venture to say is a very deserving gentleman, and has from the first commanded the forces of this dominion. Gen. Braddock thought so highly of him he made him his aid, and if he had survived, I believe would have provided handsomely for him in the Regulars. He is a person much beloved here, and has undergone many hardships in the service, and I really think he has just merit."

*Gov. Dinwiddie to Gen. Abercrombie.*

### APRIL FIFTEENTH.

**1776** General Washington informed Congress of his return from Boston, and that at the various points—Providence, Norwich, and New London—he had stopped to expedite embarkation of troops. The army moved in three divisions to these points, and was then taken to New York by water. The General found this post in fine condition, and thanked both officers and soldiers "for the many Works of Defense which had been so expeditiously erected."

**1779** Washington wrote to John Jay in confidence, and, with a freedom he did not often indulge in even with trusted friends, said: "I discovered very early in the war symptoms of coldness and constraint in General Gates' behaviour to me. These increased as he rose into greater consequence. When I find that this gentleman does not scruple to take the most unfair advantage of me, I am under a necessity of explaining his conduct to justify my own. I am, however, uneasy, as General G. has endeavored to impress Congress with an unfavorable idea of me."

"I will only add, if Washington was not a Christian, he was more like one than any man of the same description whose life has hitherto been recorded. From other great men he was distinguished by an exemption from favoritism. No man ever so engrossed his attention as to be safe, for a moment, from a deserved reproof or censure, nor was a man ever so distrusted by him, as, on that account, to fail of receiving from him whatever applause his services or merit could claim. Hence his friends feared and his enemies respected him."

*Timothy Dwight, D. D., LL. D., President of Yale.*

**APRIL SIXTEENTH.**

**1781** The Commander-in-chief said regarding the exchange of General Burgoyne, then in Europe on parole: "His death would deprive us in exchanges of the value of 1040 soldiers. If the captivity of President Henry Laurens in the Tower of London, is not relaxed, Burgoyne shall at once be recalled." Mr. Laurens was compelled to pay rent for his cells, furnish his own food, fuel, and candles, and the wages for his two wardens; at the last he rebelled, saying it was enough to provoke a man to exchange his lodgings.

**1789** George Washington, accompanied by Secretary Thomson and a modest domestic retinue, started for the seat of Government. He thus records his emotions: "About ten o'clock I bade adieu to Mount Vernon, to private life, and to domestic felicity, with a mind oppressed with more anxious and painful sensations than I have words to express, set out for New York, in company with Mr. Thomson and Colonel Humphries; with the best disposition to render service to my country in obedience to its call, but with less hope of answering its expectations." *Washington's Diary.*

"Washington the warrior and the legislator! In war, contending by the wager of battle for the independence of his country and for the freedom of the human race; 'ever manifesting amidst its horrors, by precept and example, his reverence for the laws of peace and for the tenderest sympathies of humanity; in peace, soothing the ferocious spirit of discord among his countrymen into harmony and union; and giving to that very sword, now presented to his country, a charm more potent than that attributed in ancient times to the lyre of Orpheus."

*John Quincy Adams (Massachusetts).*

**APRIL SEVENTEENTH.**

**1775** Colonel Washington spent the day at Alexandria, Va, drilling the "Independent Companies." Neighbors, friends, relatives, "The Blues," his special command, went to the field and were the military escort at his funeral.

**1777** Lord North's "Conciliatory Bills" were circulated in camp at Valley Forge. These "Specious allurements of peace," as the Commander-in-chief called them, were a severe test to the patriotism of the suffering army; but one which, to their credit, they withstood manfully.

**1779** The journey of the President-elect was a triumphal march. Within a mile of his own gates he was met by a delegation of friends and neighbors from Alexandria, who escorted him until relieved, upon the banks of the Potomac, by a similar one from Georgetown, who were in turn relieved by an escort from Baltimore, and thus the route was covered until he entered the first capital.

"WASHINGTON,  
The Brave, The Wise, The Good;  
WASHINGTON,  
Supreme in War, in Council, and in Peace.  
WASHINGTON,  
Valiant Discreet Confident  
without without without  
Ambition; Fear; Presumption;  
WASHINGTON,  
In Disaster, Calm; In Success, Moderate, In All,  
himself.

"WASHINGTON,  
The Hero, The Patriot, The Christian;  
The Father of Nations, The Friend of Mankind;  
who,  
When he had won all, renounced all,  
and sought,  
In the Bosom of his Family and of Nature,  
Retirement,  
And, in the Hope of Religion,  
Immortality."

*Anon.*

**APRIL EIGHTEENTH.**

**1760** "Righted up all my Fencing. Planted other pine trees in the fence'd place at the corner of the garden the first being broke, and much hurt by creatures. Got my cloaths &c packed up for my journey to Williamsburg, tomorrow." *Washington's Diary*.

**1776** General Washington, much gratified by the prompt appreciation exhibited in the resolution of Congress, March 25th, wrote to President Hancock from New York: "The medal, intended to be presented to me by your honorable body, I shall carefully preserve as a memorial of their regard."

**1783** "The Commander-in-chief orders the cessation of hostilities between the United States and the King of Great Britain to be publicly proclaimed tomorrow at twelve at the New Building; and that the Proclamation, which will be communicated herewith, be read tomorrow evening at the head of every regiment and corps of the army; after which the chaplains with the several brigades will render thanks to Almighty God for all His mercies, particularly for His over-ruling the wrath of man to His glory and causing the rage of war to cease among the nations." *Orderly Book (Newburg)*.

"Washington was never dramatic, but on great occasions he not only rose to the full ideal of the event; he became himself the event. No man ever stood for so much to his country and to mankind as George Washington. Hamilton, Jefferson, and Adams, Madison and Jay each represented some of the elements which formed the Union;—Washington embodied them all."

*Chauncey Mitchell Depew, LL. D. (New York).*

**APRIL NINETEENTH.**

**1756** Colonel Washington appealed to Lord Fairfax for militia to defend Fort Edwards, "lest the party of soldiers and inhabitants fall a sacrifice to the Indians." Two days later he sent an express to Governor Dinwiddie to hurry up relief, provisions, and powder. The frontier men had driven their cattle toward the interior and gathered their women and children into the fort.

**1783** Eight years from the first shock of arms at Lexington, the Commander-in-chief issued the Proclamation of Congress ordering cessation of hostilities. The news was received with huzzas, followed by a prayer; to the accompaniment of the band the army sang the anthem "Independence." For the evening celebration the regiments were ordered to bring in timbers from ten to thirty feet long to form a frame for fireworks over the New Building. Combustibles collected on the summit of Beacon, Cro' Nest and Storm King, for the purpose of heralding the approach of the enemy, were now to be used in the celebration of peace. Amidst this rejoicing Washington left for Ringwood, N. J., to arrange with the Secretary of War plans for the exchange of prisoners, so that the more imposing celebration was reserved for the city of New York.

"The States, O Lord, with songs of praise,  
Shall in thy strength rejoice,  
And blest with thy salvation raise  
To Heaven their cheerful voice.

"And all the Continent shall sing  
Down with this earthly King;  
No King but God,  
No King but God."  
"Independence" (*Billings, Conn., 1783*).



### APRIL TWENTIETH.

**1778** The Commander-in-chief sent a circular to the general officers in camp proposing three plans for the summer campaign: "To recover Philadelphia, attack New York, or to keep the army in a state of security, to cover the country and our magazines, and be prepared for the future motions of the enemy." The officers sent a written reply which differed widely in opinion. General Charles Lee arrived the previous evening at Valley Forge. Washington, who had been distressed at his captivity, received him like a brother, and gave him a room at headquarters. All the music in the camp was ordered out, and the generals of divisions were invited to a dinner in his honor.

**1780** General Washington interested and entertained his guests, the French minister, Marquis de la Luzerne, and a Spanish nobleman, Don Juan Murilles, at Morristown, by taking them to a point, where they had a distant view of the enemy's position, on New York and Staten Island.

**1789** The President-elect was met at the Pennsylvania line by a large civil and military cavalcade, and escorted to Philadelphia. He was entertained by the corporation at a magnificent banquet given at the "City Tavern"; and received every assurance of affection.

"I know of no historic character concerning whom the verdict of humanity is so unanimous as it is concerning George Washington. With the exception of Thomas Carlyle I cannot recall the name of any writer of consequence who has dissented from this verdict."

*Hjalmar Hjorth Boyesen.*

### APRIL TWENTY-FIRST.

**1778** Commenting on Lord North's speech and "Conciliatory Bills," in a letter to John Banister, delegate in Congress then sitting at York, Pa., Washington wrote: "Nothing short of Independence can possibly do. A Peace on other terms would, if I may be allowed the expression, be a Peace of war. The injuries we have received from the British nation were so unprovoked, and have been so great and so many, that they can never be forgotten. . . . France, by her supplies, has saved us from the yoke thus far; and a wise and virtuous perseverance would, and I trust will, free us entirely."

**1789** This day Washington reached Trenton, N. J., where twelve years before he had fought one of the most sanguinary and important battles of the war. On the bridge he was met by a delegation of young girls, who sang songs in his honor and strewed flowers in his pathway. A floral arch was erected over the bridge, bearing the legends: "December 26th, 1776," "The Defender of the Mothers will be the Protector of the Daughters." This scene has become a favorite theme for pen and pencil.

"Welcome, mighty chief, once more,  
Welcome to this grateful shore,  
Now no mercenary foe  
Aims again the fatal blow,  
Aims at thee the fatal blow.

"Virgins fair and matrons grave,  
Those thy conquering arm did save,  
Build for thee triumphal bowers.  
Strew ye fair his way with flowers,  
Strew your hero's way with flowers."  
*Richard Howell (Governor of New Jersey).  
Bridge at Trenton, sung April, 1789.*

**APRIL TWENTY-SECOND.**

**1756** Colonel Washington appealed for help from the merchants of Fredericksburg, and, in applying to Governor Dinwiddie to make better provisions to defend the frontier, wrote: "The supplicating tears of the women, and moving petitions from the men, melt me into such deadly sorrow, that I solemnly declare, if I know my own mind, I could offer myself a willing sacrifice to the butchering enemy, provided that would contribute to the people's ease."

**1778** Congress set apart this day for fasting, humiliation, and prayer. The fasting observed by the poor soldiers at Valley Forge, who, to quote their Commander-in-chief, "were deeply involved in rags," was little less than a satire, a satire that brought tears to the eyes of many wives and mothers.

**1793** From Philadelphia, President Washington issued a Proclamation of Neutrality between the United States and the European powers in conflict. The Cabinet unanimously agreed to receive a minister from the Republic of France, thus sympathizing with all efforts for self-government, even that which had wantonly sacrificed such friends of liberty as D'Estaing, Chastellux, and others well beloved in America.

"In the days that tried men's souls, when danger and death were at the door, and difficulties pressed on every side, Washington, born to command, to ride on the whirlwind and direct the storm, discovered to the astonished world that in the wilds of America had been raised a hero to eclipse in glory the Alexanders of Greece, the Cæsars of Rome, and the Hampdens of Britain; unrivalled in talents and equal to the mighty task of working out the salvation of his country."

*Captain Samuel White (New York), 1800.*

**APRIL TWENTY-THIRD.**

**1755** Colonel Washington left Mount Vernon to join General Braddock at Fredericksburg. Before starting he wrote to Hon. William Fairfax, then a member of the House of Burgesses, of having met the Colonial governors in Alexandria, and "being well received by them, especially Mr. Shirley, whose character and appearance have perfectly charmed me, as I think his every word and action discover in him the gentleman politician."

**1779** From Middlebrook, Washington wrote to the president of Congress: "Is there anything doing, or that can be done to restore the credit of our money? The depreciation of it has got to so alarming a point, that a wagon load of money will scarcely purchase a wagon load of provisions."

**1789** In a handsome barge presented by the citizens, General Washington reached New York from Elizabethtown, and the city welcomed him as no hero of modern times had been received. Accompanied by the joint committees appointed by Congress to attend him, he dined with Governor Clinton.

"Thrice welcome to this shore,  
Our leader now no more,  
But ruler thou,  
Oh, truly good and great!  
Long live to glad our State,  
Where countless honors wait  
To deck thy brow.

"Hush'd be the din of arms;  
Henceforth the olive's charms  
Shall war preclude.  
These shores a head shall own  
Unswayed by a throne,  
Our much-lov'd Washington,  
The great, the good!"  
*Samuel Low (New York), 1789.*

### APRIL TWENTY-FOURTH.

**1775** Colonel Washington, from Fairfax County, advertised, offering forty dollars reward for the capture and return of two convict men-servants, warning all vessels against receiving them. Convict labor was largely depended upon, especially for bricklayers, masons, carpenters, shoemakers, etc. An indenture covering seven years for "one Transport" was found in the Washington papers.

**1780** "At Morristown a field of parade being prepared under the direction of Baron Steuben, four battalions of our army were presented for review, by the French Minister, attended by his Excellency and our General officers." In the evening the Marquis de la Luzerne, accompanied by General and Mrs. Washington, attended a ball given in his honor by the principal officers. The Spanish nobleman Don Juan Murilles was not present, being alarmingly ill with pulmonary fever at headquarters.

**1791** President Washington, after a dusty and fatiguing drive from New-Berne, arrived at Wilmington, N. C. Here he was annoyed to find "that the Census in this state has been inaccurately and shamefully taken by the Marshall's deputies."

"So just, so wise, so beneficial, so far above the tone of vulgar heroes was the Father of our Country, that but a small proportion of what is interesting in him can be given of him in any book. His praise is everywhere: he has no competitors, he stands alone. . . . Let us bless God that America, having produced one such son, may bring forth others like him, when the day of trial shall come, as it may come even to us, favored as we are above all the nations of the earth. There is more hope, not less, of another Washington, from having had the first."

Caroline Matilda Kirkland (Massachusetts).

### APRIL TWENTY-FIFTH.

**1785** General Washington wrote from Mount Vernon a strong testimonial upon the patriotism, generosity, and efficiency of Christopher Ludwick, Baker-General of the United States. This office was created "to rectify all abuse in the article of bread." His commission from Congress was dated May 3, 1777, and was held to the close of the war. He was a great sufferer, financially, and became negligent through sacrifices for the patriot cause, but was wont to say that this letter from his commander consoled him for all losses.

**1788** General Washington wrote from Mount Vernon congratulating the Marquis de Chastellux upon his approaching marriage, and said: "It is quite good enough for you. Now you are well served for coming to fight in favor of the American rebels, all the way across the Atlantic Ocean: by catching that terrible contagion *Domestic Felicity*. While you have been making love, under the banner of Hymen, the great Personages in the North have been making war, under the infatuation of Mars. Now, I humbly conceive, you have had much the best and wisest of the bargain. For certainly it is more consonant to all the principles of reason and religion to replenish the earth with inhabitants, rather than to depopulate it by killing those already in existence."

"Washington  
Doth know no other language than the one  
We speak; and never did an English tongue  
Give voice unto a larger, wiser mind."

George Henry Calvert (Maryland).

**APRIL TWENTY-SIXTH.**

**1760** "Visited all the Estates, and my own quarters about Williamsburg, found these also in pretty good forwardness. Receiv'd letters from Winchester, informing me that the small pox had got among my quarters in Frederick; determin'd therefore to leave town as soon as possible and proceed up to them."  
*Washington's Diary.*

**1763** Colonel Washington wrote to his Tailor, Old Fish Street, London: "Be pleased to send me a genteele sute of cloaths, made of superfine broad cloth, handsomely chosen:—I should have enclosed you my measure, but, in a general way, they are so badly taken here that I am convinced it would be of little service; I would have you therefore, take measure of a gentleman who wears well made cloaths of the following size, to wit: Six feet high, and proportionately made; if anything, rather slender than thick for a person of that heighth, with pretty long arms and thighs."

**1793** To the Earl of Buchan, the President said: "I take the liberty of sending you the plan of a new city, situated about the center of the Union of these States, which is designated for the permanent seat of the government. We are at this moment far advanced in extending the inland navigation of the River Potomac, on which it stands, and the branches thereof, through a tract of as rich country for hundreds of miles as any in the world."

"I recommend the constant remembrance of the moral and political maxims conveyed to its citizens by the Father and Founder of the United States."  
*Earl Buchan (Scotland).*

**APRIL TWENTY-SEVENTH.**

**1782** The Commander-in-chief urged upon the Secretary of War the enlistment into our service of German prisoners, saying, "I am convinced that by such an incorporation they will make exceedingly cheap and valuable recruits, and being able-bodied and disciplined will give a strength and solidity to our regiments." Through the influence of Christopher Ludwig a number of Hessians had become ardent Americans.

**1787** General Washington was called to Fredericksburg, Va., by the alarming illness of his mother and sister. He had arranged to start for Philadelphia to attend the Constitutional Convention, proposing to arrive in time to preside at the general meeting of the Society of the Cincinnati. Of this society he said to General Knox: "That the design of the institution was pure I have not a particle of doubt; that it may be so still is perhaps equally unquestionable."

**1789** The committee of both Houses of Congress, in New York, reported that the inaugural oath would be administered to George Washington in the outer gallery, adjoining the senate-chamber. Congress also resolved, "That after the oath shall have been administered to the President, he, attended by the Vice-President and the members of the Senate and the House of Representatives, proceed to St. Paul's chapel to hear divine service, to be performed by the Chaplain of Congress already appointed."

"George Washington, the highest human personation of justice and benevolence."

*William Henry Seward (New York).*

**APRIL TWENTY-EIGHTH.**

**1777** The Commander-in-chief wrote to General McDougall deploring the disaster at Danbury, and the fall of the gallant General Wooster at the head of his brave militia at Ridgefield. This engagement was one of the five battles of the yeomanry who went from their plows to the field: King's Mountain, Ridgefield, Oriskany, Bunker Hill, Lexington; where "the embattled farmers stood, and fired the shot heard round the world."

**1782** General Washington, writing to the Marquis de la Luzerne, said: "Permit me, Sir, to express the high sense I have of the honor you have done me in communicating the favorable opinion entertained of my conduct by the Court and nation of France, and to acknowledge my obligations to those officers, who have inspired these sentiments."

**1788** Maryland adopted the Federal Constitution.

**1789** The programme for the inaugural ceremonies of George Washington was officially reported,—a broadside printed upon foolscap paper and issued the following morning. New York was crowded with people from all parts of the country to witness the great event.

"I place Washington in the first rank among men whom it is the world's duty to honor. He does not belong to you alone, he belongs to the whole of mankind. If he has not, in the same degree as Napoleon, the prestige that genius lends, he has certainly that which is incomparably superior, and which emanates from disinterestedness, love of country, and fidelity to principle. America lives through Washington."

*Alfred Joseph Naquet, Sénateur (France).*

**APRIL TWENTY-NINTH.**

**1776** The Commander-in-chief, from headquarters, New York, forbade all intercourse or correspondence with ships of war and other vessels belonging to or in the service of the King of Great Britain. He wrote to his brother, John Augustine Washington, the same date: "Mrs. Washington is still here, and talks of taking the small-pox, but I doubt her resolution."

**1790** In his diary Washington notes: "Fixed with the Secretary of State on the present which (according to the custom of nations) should be made to the Diplomatic Characters when they return from their employment in this country—and this was a gold medal suspended to a gold chain—in ordinary to be of the value of about 120 or 130 guineas." Two of these medals, executed by Dupré, were presented officially—one to the Marquis de la Luzerne and one to Count de Moustier. The dies were lost at sea, but were reproduced from a wax impression, furnished by a collector on the American Centennial, by Dr. Linderman, director of the mint. The revival and use of this medal as originally proposed, was suggested and strongly urged upon senators and members, but never came before Congress.

**1791** The President, accompanied by General Moultrie and Colonel William Washington, passed the night at the home of Mr. Rutledge. He found great delight in the beauty of the rice-fields. The following morning he left for Georgetown, S. C., where, fourteen years before, Lafayette and suite had landed in America.

"Washington réunit par un rare assemblage, les talens du guerrier, et les vertus du sage."  
*Voltaire, Washington medal (Paris).*

## APRIL THIRTIETH.

**1780** General Washington informed the Governor of Cuba, Don Diego Navarro, of the death of Don Juan Murilles, a Spanish nobleman, who died on the 28th, of lung-fever, while his guest at Morristown. Every honor was accorded this distinguished stranger. The order was issued "that all officers who can be free from duty are expected to attend his funeral." The Marquis de la Luzerne, the Commander-in-chief and his generals walked by the bier as chief mourners. The united display of military and church ceremonies made of this funeral one of the most magnificent occasions that have ever occurred in America.

**1781** From New Windsor the General wrote to Lund Washington upon hearing that some British troops had landed at Mount Vernon, and that to save the mansion he had supplied them with meat. He said: "I am very sorry of your loss, I am a little sorry to hear of my own; but, that which gives me most concern, is, that you should go on board the enemies vessels, and furnish them with refreshments. It would have been a less painful circumstance to me to have heard, that in consequence of your non compliance to their request they had burnt the house and laid the plantation in ruins."

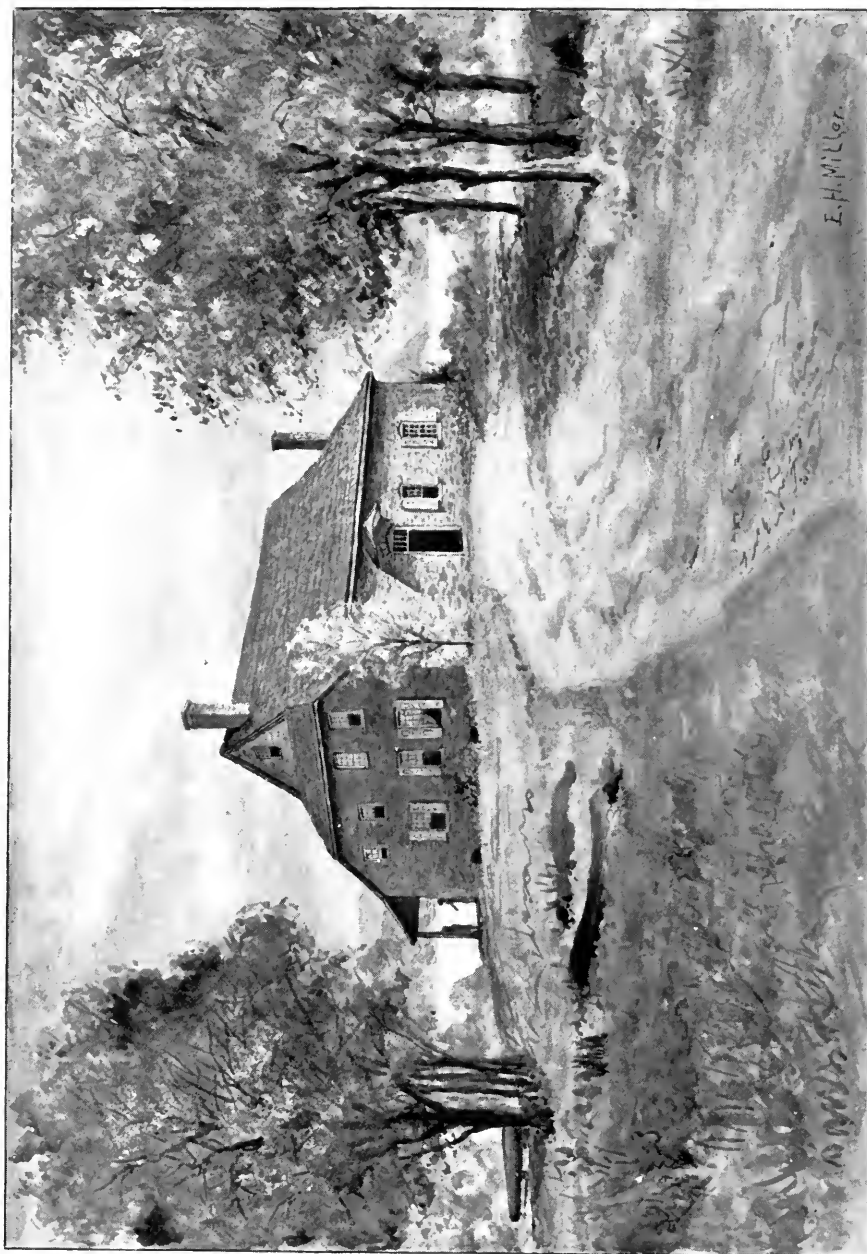
**1789** In the presence of an immense assemblage of American citizens and representatives of foreign governments, the oath as first executive officer of the United States of America was administered to George Washington by Chancellor Livingston, on the balcony of Federal Hall, in the city of New York. At the conclusion of his inaugural address in the senate-chamber, the President, Vice-President, and Congress, in pursuance of resolution, proceeded on foot to St. Paul's Church, where Bishop Provoost preached. The city of New York celebrated the centenary of this event with a magnificence worthy of its importance, reproducing, as far as possible, the scenes of the day they memorialized.

"He addressed the two Houses in the senate-chamber; it was a very touching scene, and quite of a solemn kind. His aspect grave, almost to sadness; his modesty, actually shaking; his voice deep, a little tremulous, and so low as to call for close attention; added to the series of objects presented to the mind, and overwhelming it, produced emotions of the most affecting kind upon the members."

*Fisher Ames (Massachusetts), April 30, 1789.*

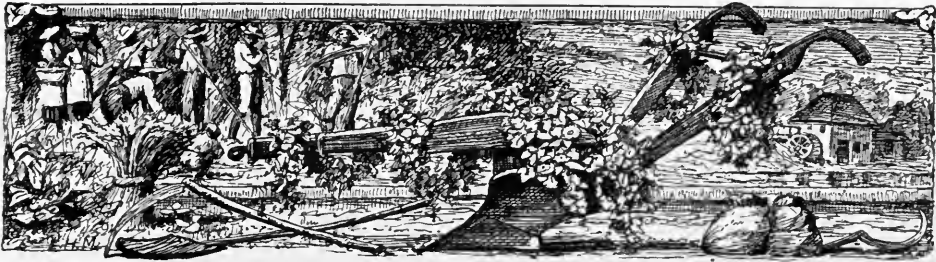






WASHINGTON'S HEADQUARTERS, NEWBURG, NEW YORK, 1780.  
After an old print.





## MAY FIRST.

**1778** General Washington received the first intelligence of the signing of the French Alliance Treaty, from Simeon Deane, who landed at Falmouth from the frigate *La Sensible*, bearing despatches to the Continental Congress from the French king. Congress was in session at Yorktown, Pa., but Mr. Deane sent a messenger from Bethlehem to Valley Forge, to relieve the anxiety of the Commander-in-chief.

**1781** The Commander-in-chief this day at New Windsor began "A Concise Journal of Military Transactions," which valuable manuscript is in the archives of the Department of State. In the preface he says: "Instead of having magazines filled with provisions, we have a scanty pittance scattered here and there in the different States. Instead of having our arsenals well supplied with military stores, they are poorly provided, and the workmen all leaving them," etc.

**1785** "To dinner Mr. Pine, a pretty eminent portrait and historical painter arrived in order to take my picture from the life and place it in the historical pieces he was about to draw. This gentleman stands in good estimation as a painter in England comes recommended to me from Col. Fairfax, Mr. Morris, Gov. Dickinson, Mr. Hopkinson and others." *Washington's Diary*.

**1792** President Washington wrote to the Earl of Buchan that his portrait, which that nobleman had sent the artist Archibald Robertson to America to paint, had been forwarded to Dryburg Abbey. Of the "Wallace Box" he said: "I accept with sensibility and satisfaction, the significant present of the box; I will however ask, that you will exempt me from a compliance with the request relating to its eventual destination." That nobleman requested that Washington should bequeath it to the most exemplary American. The box was made of the oak that sheltered William Wallace after the battle of Falkirk, and in his will Washington returned it to the donor.

"Washington's enthusiastic welcome to the Presidential chair by the people of all classes, without any division of interest, reads in this age like a poem; yet he was able to meet it with unruffled composure. He had come to the front when there were an ocean of problems to solve — of forms and ceremonies to be adjusted. But industry was one of his cardinal virtues, and he did not seek to be afflicted with waste moments. His personal influence tied as with a knot of steel the conflicting forces together. He was dignified even to a lofty reserve, while at the same time his irresistible magnetism disproves the notion that he was cold and unsympathetic. His breeding was that of a gentleman; he was fond of society, conversed well, enjoyed humor in a quiet way, and was sensitive to the beauty and open to the appeal of a good story."

*Martha J. Lamb (New York).*

## MAY SECOND.

**1779** There was a grand review of the army at Middlebrook, in honor of the French minister, Monsieur Gérard, and Don Juan Murilles. Mrs. Washington, Mrs. Knox, and Mrs. Greene, with an assemblage of distinguished guests, were upon a platform. The Commander-in-chief and suite, division generals and their suites, formed a group. Colonel Lee and his cavalry won great applause by their evolutions. The French minister's visit to camp was for the purpose of consulting the Commander-in-chief in respect to the movements of the French fleet under Count d'Estaing.

**1788** Washington expressed to John Ettwein, a Moravian clergyman, his approval of the work being done among the aborigines by the Society of Bethlehem, and thanked him for a pamphlet by Count Zinzendorf, upon "The Traditions, Customs, and Language of the Indians." This is one of the most valuable as well as one of the earliest life-studies of the race, and is given with the strength and simplicity peculiar to this remarkable man.

**1791** The President arrived in Charleston, and notes in his diary: "Was received in a 12 oared barge rowed by 12 American Captains of Ships, most elegantly dressed. There were a great number of other Boats with Gentlemen and ladies in them; and two boats with Music."

"His memory will ever be dear to the French nation, as to all freemen in both the Old and New Worlds, and especially to the soldiers of France, who, like him and the American soldiers, fight for equality and liberty."  
*Napoleon (France).*

## MAY THIRD.

**1782** Washington announced to the Commander-in-chief of the British army that unless the murderers of Captain Joshua Huddy, of the New Jersey State Troops, be yielded up, that he would certainly find means to retaliate. The same month lots were drawn among the prisoners, and Captain Asgill, a brilliant young officer, drew the fatal number, which placed him under sentence of death. His execution was delayed, and Congress finally pardoned him.

**1783** Major-General Heorth, in his invaluable Memoirs, thus records an important event: "General Washington and Governor Clinton with their suites went down the river to Dobbs Ferry to meet General Sir Guy Carleton. Four companies of light infantry had marched for that place to do the duty of guards. Sir Guy was to come up the river in a frigate."

**1791** "Breakfasted with Mrs. Rutledge (the Lady of the Chief Justice of the State who was on the Circuits) and dined with the Citizens at a public dinner, given by them at the Exchange. Was visited about 2 o'clock, by a great number of the most respectable ladies of Charleston — the first honor of the kind I had ever experienced and it was as flattering as it was singular." *Washington's Diary.*

"As the military leader of a political revolution, as the ruler of a free, and the Father of a great people, he appears stamped with the character of absolute perfection. In the progress of civilization and christianity, war, with all its works, will be done away. Its glories and its horrors, will be known only in history; but in those happy days Washington will still be found worthy the admiration of mankind."  
*Charles Wentworth Upham, D. D. (Maine).*

## MAY FOURTH.

**1758** Colonel Washington noted in his account-book buying a ring for sixteen shillings, presumably his engagement-ring; for on the 24th of this month he left Fort Loudoun to make his second visit to Mrs. Martha Dandridge Custis, at which time they became engaged.

**1771** Colonel Washington in his diary gives a glimpse of life at the old capital of Virginia. "Dined at Mrs. Campbells (paid for Club and Dinner) went to Eltham with Colonels Basset and Lewis. Dined at the Speakers and went to the play, after w<sup>ch</sup> drank a bowl or two of Punch at Mrs. Campbells's." Until the very outbreak of the war for independence, the most cordial and confidential relations existed between Washington and the Governors and other officials of the Old Dominion.

**1775** Colonel Washington, accompanied by Benjamin Harrison, started at sunrise, on horseback, from Mount Vernon, to attend the second Continental Congress, convened at Philadelphia. This was the last time he saw Mount Vernon for more than six years. They reached Upper Marlborough that night, and were joined by Edmund Pendleton, also a delegate to the Congress.

"America has furnished the character of Washington, and if our American Institutions had done nothing else, that alone, would entitle them to the respect of mankind. . . . A century from the birth of Washington has changed the world. The country of Washington has been the theatre on which a great part of that change has been wrought, and Washington himself a principal agent by which it has been accomplished. His age and his country are equally full of wonders, and of both he is the chief."

*Daniel Webster (Massachusetts).*

## MAY FIFTH.

**1778** At midnight a special messenger from Congress arrived at Valley Forge to officially announce to the Commander-in-chief the ratification at Versailles on February 6th of the French alliance. In reply, Washington wrote, urging "the importance of action on the part of Congress, as the English evidently intended to vigorously prosecute the war." Upon announcing the event to the army in the morning, Washington ordered a grand fête and jubilee.

**1779** From Middlebrook the Commander-in-chief inclosed to the president of Congress three New York papers. He said: "The last contains extracts from Lord North's speech, at opening the budget, which seems to breathe a vigorous prosecution of the war, I have thought appearances for some time past wore this complexion. While the government can procure money; men will not be wanting." At the solicitation of Washington, Congress made Baron Steuben inspector-general of the army, with rank and pay of major-general. This brilliant nobleman left high honors in three kingdoms that he might come to America and draw his sword for liberty.

"Washington was the first one to see the rising sun of coming ages. Unlike many others he did not wish to build up the future by using the past. He did not stop to loosen stones from monuments in ruins, to build with them the city of the promised land. For Washington's genius was composed of honesty and will power. Without his will power he would have relinquished three times the work of American independence. Without his honesty he would have instituted for his own benefit a short-lived monarchy instead of founding an indestructible republic."

*Arsène Houssaye (France).*

## MAY SIXTH.

**1775** Colonel Washington gave his brother this charming picture of Braddock: "I have met with much complaisance in this family, especially from the General, whom I hope to please without ceremonious *attentions* or difficulty; for I may add: it cannot be done *with them*, as he uses and requires less ceremony than you can easily conceive." Washington having lost three of his horses since leaving Mount Vernon, he applied to his old friend Thomas, Lord Fairfax, of Greenway Court, for the loan of forty or fifty pounds, saying, "I will gladly pay your Lordship interest, beside many thanks."

**1783** General Washington and General Sir Guy Carleton met in the Van Brugh Livingston Mansion at Dobbs Ferry (Rochambeau's headquarters in 1781-82). They arranged for the evacuation of New York and all other posts in the possession of the enemy, and at the same time agreed upon and settled the preliminaries for the departure of the hostile forces of his Britannic Majesty from the territory of the Government of the United States.

**1791** "Dined with a large Company at the Governors & in the evening went to a Concert at the Exchange at wch there were at least 400 ladies the number & appearance of wch exceeded anything of the kind I had ever seen. Viewed the town on horseback by riding through most of the principal streets. Dined at Major Butler's and went to a Ball in the evening at the Governor's where there was a select Company of ladies." *Washington's Diary*.

"General Washington is known to us, and President Washington. But George Washington is an unknown man." *Hugh McMasters (Pennsylvania)*.

## MAY SEVENTH.

**1778** The Commander-in-chief, Generals Greene and Stirling, with their wives, attended thanksgiving service of the Jersey Brigade at Valley Forge. The General reviewed the army, and with all of his officers dined in public; bands playing; and each toast announced with cannon. Upon a signal given the army huzzahed, "Long live the King of France! Long live the friendly European powers; and long live the American States!" Washington, upon retiring, repeated their shouts, which was received with the wildest delight. He presented two of the three sets of epaulets and sword-knots sent him from France, one to General Arnold and one to General Lincoln.

**1789** The first inaugural ball was given to President Washington by the citizens of New York at the De Lancey House in the Bowery, near Canal street. It was a great disappointment that Mrs. Washington, who was en route from Mount Vernon, had not arrived in time to be present.

**1791** Some difficulties having arisen in regard to the boundary of the Federal City, the President wrote to the commissioners: "Will the gentlemen not recollect my observation that Philadelphia stood upon an area of three by two miles, and if the metropolis of *one state* occupied so much ground, what ought that of the United States to occupy?"

"The delight not only of his own nation but of all mankind. . . . The first in war was now to be the first in peace." *Eliza Morton Quincy (Massachusetts)*.

### MAY EIGHTH.

**1778** General Washington held a council of war at Valley Forge with the military committee instructed by Congress to urge an attack upon Philadelphia. He resisted their arguments, stating that his "men were not yet in condition for such service after their winter of cruel suffering." After discussion and grave deliberation, the committee accepted his views of the situation, and agreed that the interests and safety of the United States demanded he should continue on the defensive and await events.

**1780** A letter from Washington welcomed Lafayette upon his landing from France, "with all the joy the sincerest friendship could dictate." The Marquis arrived two days later at headquarters,—Morristown,—and remained four days in consultation with his Excellency.

**1783** The Commander-in-chief and Governor Clinton dined with Sir Guy Carleton on board the *Greyhound* in the Hudson, opposite Dobbs Ferry. They were received with a salute, and upon their departure, in recognition of General Washington's rank, seventeen guns were fired. "This was the first complimentary salute by Great Britain in honor of an officer of the United States; and virtually the first salute to the nation."

"The soldiers, jealous of his praises, feared even his silence; never was a general better served and obeyed. More careful of his country's glory than his own, he risked nothing to chance. . . . How I love to imagine myself the French General (Rochambeau), equally idolized and hero of his army, saying as he sat at table near Washington, that he had never known what glory was nor a truly great man, until he became acquainted with him."

*Joseph Mandrillon ("Le Spectateur Americain").*

### MAY NINTH.

**1779** From Middlebrook, General Washington wrote to Gouverneur Morris: "If the enemy have it in their power to press us hard this campaign, I know not what may be the consequences. Our Army as it now stands, is but little more than the skeleton of an army. . . . Providence has done, and I am persuaded it disposes to do, a great deal for us, but we are not to forget the fable of Jupiter and the countryman."

**1781** The Commander-in-chief made a careful estimate of the stores at West Point, and discovered that there was not meat enough for two full days' rations. He well said: "Instead of having everything in readiness to take the field, we have nothing, and instead of having the prospect of a glorious offensive campaign before us, we have a bewildered and a gloomy defensive one."

**1787** Washington left in his chariot for Philadelphia, to attend the Constitutional Convention. "Crossed from Mount Vernon to Mr. Digges a little after sunrise, and pursuing the rout by the way of Baltimore dined in Bladensburg, and lodged at Major Snowden's, when feeling very severely a violent headache I went to bed early." *Washington's Diary.*

"Patient, watchful, provoked into no rashness, frightened into no delay, cautious in his approach, bold and desperate in his onset, calm and collected in retreat, he moves at the head of his brave, but ill furnished and distracted army like a pillar of fire."

*Rev. Joel Tyler Headley (New York).*

**MAY TENTH.**

**1775** Colonel Washington was present at the convening of the second Continental Congress at Philadelphia. Hon. John Adams, a member from Massachusetts Bay, wrote: "Colonel Washington appeared every day in his uniform, and his great experience and ability in military affairs was of much service to all."

**1782** General Washington received at Newburg from Sir Guy Carleton, who had only just returned from England, a communication inclosing the king's speech of March 4th, in favor of peace, and a copy of the bill, not yet passed by Parliament, enabling his Majesty to conclude a peace, or truce, with the revolted colonies in North America. The English general said: "In all events, Sir, it is with me to declare, that, if war must prevail I shall endeavor to render its miseries as light to the people of this continent as the circumstances of such a condition will possibly permit."

**1789** The President gave a theater-party to about "25 people of Eminence." Senator William Maclay, of Pennsylvania, was one of the number, and wrote a detailed account of the entertainment; rather a genial effort for this sensitive politician, who seemed imbued with the idea that courtesy extended to him was actuated by an unworthy motive; especially at this time, on the eve of his effort to locate the permanent seat of government on the Susquehanna.

"The true greatness of George Washington is best exemplified in the greatness of this country, which, as compared with all other nations, is the greatest show on earth."

*Phineas T. Barnum (Connecticut).*

**MAY ELEVENTH.**

**1754** Colonel Washington wrote: "Broke camp, and went on a rising ground where we halted to dry ourselves, for we had been obliged to ford a rapid where our shortest men had Water up to their Arm-pits. An express came in with letters acquainting us that Colonel Fry with a Detachment of more than 100 men was at Winchester, and was to set out in a few days to join us; as also that Colonel Innes was marching with 350 men, raised in Carolina; that it was expected Maryland would raise 200 men, and that Pennsylvania had raised 10,000 Pounds to pay the soldiers of other Colonies, as that Province could furnish no recruits; and that Governor Shirley had sent 600 men to harass the French in Canada; I hope that will give them some work to do, and will moderate their zeal in sending so many men to the Ohio."

**1780** The magnificence of the obsequies and official distinction accorded that grandee of Spain, Don Juan de Murilles, called forth a letter of thanks from Marquis de la Luzerne, to whom Washington replied: "The attention and honors paid Monsieur Murilles on his death, were a tribute due his character and merit, and dictated by the sincere esteem which I always felt for him." As was the custom in his own country, the body was robed in court costume and exposed to the public view.

"We were impatient to see the hero of liberty. . . . His dignified address, his simplicity of manners, and mild gravity, surpassed our expectations and won every heart."

*Count Dumas (France).*

### MAY TWELFTH.

**1778** The Commander-in-chief, and the general officers at Valley Forge, signed the oath required by Congress: "I do acknowledge the United States of America to be Free, Independent and Sovereign States, and declare that the people thereof owe no allegiance or obedience to George the Third, King of Great Britain; and I renounce, refuse, and abjure any allegiance or obedience to him; *and I do swear*, that I will to the utmost of my power, support, maintain, and defend the said United States against the said King George the Third, and his heirs and successors, and his or their abettors, assistants and adherents and will serve the said United States, in the office of Commander in chief which I now hold with fidelity, according to the best of my skill and understanding." Washington received Ethan Allen at headquarters, and said of him: "I have been happy in a visit from Col. Allen. His fortitude and firmness seem to have placed him beyond the reach of misfortune. There is an original something in him that commands admiration, and his long captivity and suffering have only served to increase, if possible, his enthusiastic zeal."

**1791** "In my way down the River I called upon Mrs. Green the widow of the deceased Genl. Green & asked her how she did. At this place my horses and Carriages were landed, and had 12 miles farther by Land to Savanna." *Washington's Diary*.

"I have a large acquaintance among the most valuable and exalted class of men; but you are the only human being for whom I ever felt an awful reverence. I sincerely pray God to grant a long and serene evening to a life so gloriously devoted to the universal happiness of the world."

*Lord Erskine to Washington.*

### MAY THIRTEENTH.

**1776** "The Guard of the Commander-in-chief" was organized at New York. He said it must be composed entirely of Americans." Their uniforms were blue coats with white facings, white waistcoats and breeches, black half gaiters, a cocked hat with a blue and white feather; they carried muskets and side arms; their motto was "conquer or die." Caleb Gibbs of Rhode Island was their first chief, with the title of Captain Commandant.

**1783** At Verplanck House, Fishkill, headquarters of Baron Steuben, the Society of the Cincinnati was formed. This order grew out of a suggestion from General Knox, approved by the Commander-in-chief. The sole purpose of the organization was to encourage, cherish, and perpetuate friendship between the officers, foreign and native.

**1787** General Washington arrived in Philadelphia; his old escort, "The City Light Horse," met him at the Schuylkill. He wrote to his wife: "Alighted through a crowd at Mrs. House's, but being again warmly and kindly pressed by Mr. & Mrs. Robert Morris to lodge with them, I did so and had my baggage removed thither. Waited on Dr. Franklin as soon as I got to town. On my arrival the bells were chimed."

"I take this opportunity of returning my most sincere thanks to the Captain and to the gentlemen who compose the Troop, for the many essential services which they have rendered their country, and to me personally, during the course of this campaign. Though composed of gentlemen of fortune, they have shown a noble example of discipline and subordination, and in several actions have shown a spirit and bravery which will ever do honor to them, and will ever be gratefully remembered by me."

*Washington to Captain Samuel Morris (1779).*

## MAY FOURTEENTH.

**1755** Colonel Washington wrote from Cumberland to his younger brother: "As wearing boots is quite the mode, and mine are in a declining state, I must beg the favor of you to procure me a pair, good and neat." In a note to Mrs. William Fairfax, of Belvoir, he explained why Mrs. Wardrope met with more respect than herself in the review at Alexandria, Va.: "Nothing less, I assure you, than a present of a delicious cake and potted woodcock, which so affected the palate as to leave a deep impression on the hearts of all who tasted them. How could the General do otherwise than admire not only *the charms*, but the politeness of this lady?"

**1787** Washington met with the Constitutional Convention in Independence Hall, Philadelphia—"The goodliest fellowship (of law-givers) whereof this world holds record." There were fifty-five delegates from the thirteen States, and they had been cautiously chosen, but the patent fact that they were not free from sectional bias, made many patriot hearts quake with fear as shown by the *bon mot* of Dr. Franklin, after the Constitution was signed, upon the carved sun on the President's chair. He, the man whose wit flashed forth to illuminate the rugged path of patriotism, said: "In the vicissitudes of hope and fear, I was not able to tell if it were a rising or a setting sun. I now know it was a rising sun."

"It is true that Washington was a Virginian, but he was also an American, and it was at the head, not of Virginia alone, but of armies composed of troops of each of the good Old Thirteen. Surrounded by councillors drawn together from all points of that infant confederacy, he won the meed of glory which places him at the head of the human race." *Thomas Ritchie (Virginia).*

## MAY FIFTEENTH.

**1781** General Washington thanked President Ezra Stiles and Fellows of the University of Yale for the degree of Doctor of Laws. He added: "The polite manner in which you are pleased to request my acceptance of this distinguished mark of their favor demands my grateful acknowledgement."

**1791** The President notes on leaving Savannah: "After morning Service, and receiving a number of visits from the most respectable ladies of the place (as was the case yesterday), I set out for Augusta, Escorted bey'd the limits of the City, by most of the Gentlemen in it, and dining at Mulberry Grove, the Seat of Mrs. Greene, lodged at one Spencer's—distant 15 miles."

**1796** President Washington made an appeal to the Emperor of Austria for the release of Marquis de Lafayette, begging that he might be permitted to come to America "on such conditions and under such restrictions as your Majesty may think it expedient to prescribe."

"Washington was a wonderful and most majestic man—so equal and measured in all his ways, that his greatness and genius were to be seen and felt only in its general results. From his earliest manhood, when he led the British army to safety and refuge through the wild forest of Virginia, to his mature years, when the American colonies sought in him a commander-in-chief to maintain their independence and establish their constitutional form of government, he was the same immortal hero; the synonym of courage and justice inspired with love for Almighty God and his fellow men."

*Robert M. McLane (Maryland).*



### MAY SIXTEENTH.

**1776** Congress passed a resolution requiring General Washington to appear before that body to consult in regard to "the present posture of affairs." President Hancock invited Washington and his wife to be his guests while at Philadelphia; but upon their arrival from New York he was too ill to receive them.

**1780** The Commander-in-chief sent notifications to Governor Jefferson, of Virginia, and to Major-General Heath, at Boston, of the expected arrival of the French fleet, instructing each to provide pilots, in the event of being called upon, and "to have extreme caution lest the great, good news become known."

**1785** Washington wrote Francis Hopkinson, author of "Hail, Columbia," who had sent Robert Edge Pine to Mount Vernon to ask to paint his portrait: "In for a penny, in for a pound, is an old adage. I am so hackneyed to the touches of a painter's pencil that I am now altogether at their beck, and sit like 'Patience on a Monument,' while they are delineating the lines of my face. It is a proof, among many others, of what habit and custom may effect. At first I was as impatient of the request, and as restive under the operation as a colt is of the saddle. The next time I submitted very reluctantly, but with less flouncing. Now no dray-horse moves more readily to the thill, than I to the painter's chair."

"There is a natural firmness in some minds which cannot be unlocked by trifles, but which, when unlocked, discovers a cabinet of fortitude; and I reckon it among those kind of public blessings, which we do not immediately see, that God hath blessed Washington with uninterrupted health, and given him a mind that can even flourish upon care."

*Thomas Paine ("The American Crisis").*

### MAY SEVENTEENTH.

**1776** The General had announced the resolution of Congress that this day was to be observed in the army with "fasting, humiliation and prayer," and requested "all officers and soldiers to pay strict obedience to the orders of the Continental Congress; that by their unfeigned and pious observance of their religious duties, they may incline the Lord and Giver of Victory to prosper our arms."

**1781** General Washington arranged for a meeting at the Webb House, Wethersfield, Conn., with Count de Rochambeau and his son, the Viscount, who had returned from a mission to the court of Versailles, for the purpose of asking relief for our soldiers. It was with the liveliest satisfaction he learned "that Admiral Count de Grasse had cleared the harbor at Brest, with a strong squadron escorting a convoy of transports laden with supplies for the army."

**1784** President General Washington issued a circular letter embodying the changes that should be made in the constitution of the Society of the Cincinnati. He suggested to "Strike out every sentence which has a political tendency, and admit no more honorary members." During this session Washington wrote a most fraternal letter to Rochambeau, in which he thanked him but declined to accept a sum of money subscribed by French officers to sustain the society.

"To an unalterable tranquillity of mind he joins a most exact judgment; and the utmost with which he has been reproached is a little tardiness in his determination, and even, in the execution of his decisions, when he has once made them."

*Prince de Broglie (France).*

**MAY EIGHTEENTH.**

**1754** Lieutenant-Colonel Washington wrote Governor Dinwiddie from Great Crossing, Youghiogany: "I hope your Honor will order some Wampum be sent. Indeed we ought to have Spirit, and many other things of this sort, which is always expected of every Indian that brings a message, or good report. Also the chiefs, who visit and converse in council expect it."

**1760** "Set out in company with Mr. George Johnson. At Colechester was inform'd by Colo's Thornton and Chissel that the Assembly would be broke up before I cou'd get down. Turn'd back therefore and found Colo Fairfax and his family, and that lightning, which had attended a good deal of rain, had struck my quarter and near 10 Negroes in it, some shocked very bad but with letting blood they recovered." This entry in his diary, ten days before, explains delay in starting for Williamsburg: "Set out for Frederick to see my Negroes that lay ill of the small pox." He found his quarter in utmost distress. Several of the negroes had died, and the overseer was disabled with a broken leg.

**1789** The President received at the Executive Mansion the committee of the Senate, and replied to their address, concluding with the gracious sentence, "I readily engage with you in the pleasing task of attempting to make a nation happy."

"I have from the beginning, and I hope I shall to the end, pursue to the utmost of my judgment and abilities, one steady line of conduct for the good of the great whole. This will under all circumstances, administer consolation to myself, however short I may fall in the expectation of others."

*Washington.*

**MAY NINETEENTH.**

**1747** To her brother, Joseph Ball, Esq., Barrister, Mary Washington naturally turned for advice, having been a member of his family in London, when a beautiful young girl. He replied: "Rather than put your son George in the English Navy, apprentice him to a Tinker." Not entering the Royal Navy was a disappointment to the young Virginian, whose ambition, it seems, was to follow the profession of his beloved brother Lawrence.

**1778** Washington ordered General Lafayette to command "a valuable detachment," and move between the Schuylkill and Delaware. He was attacked by General Grant with a greatly superior force, Sir Henry Clinton having planned the capture of the youthful commander. By a masterly retreat, Lafayette with his troops crossed the Schuylkill at Matson's Ford, and Washington said: "The Marquis by his own dexterity, or the enemy's want of it, disengaged himself in a very soldierlike manner."

**1796** President Washington nominated Senator Rufus King, of New York, minister to the court of St. James, to succeed Thomas Pinckney, who, at his own request, had been recalled. Washington said: "There can be no doubt of his abilities, nor in my mind is there any of his fitness, but you know what has been said of his political sentiments with respect to another form of government."

"No one who has not been in England, can have a just idea of the admiration expressed among all parties for General Washington. It is a common observation, that he is not only the most illustrious, but the most meritorious character that has yet appeared."

*Rufus King (New York, 1797).*

**MAY TWENTIETH.**

**1752** Major Washington, yet a minor, wrote to William A. Fauntleroy, a relative of Miss Betsy Fauntleroy, saying, "I was taken with a violent pleurise which reduced me very low; but propose as soon as I recover my strength, to wait on Miss Betsy, in hopes of a revocation of the former cruel sentence." Miss Betsy, "the Lowland Beauty," proved obdurate, but was made immortal through the youthful passion of a great man.

**1754** Lieutenant-Colonel Washington embarked in a canoe with Lieutenant West, three soldiers, and one Indian guide, in an attempt to navigate the Youghiogany. He reported to the Governor that he found this turbulent stream unnavigable. He also said: "The Indian that accompanied me down the river, would go no further than the Forks, till I promised him a ruffled shirt, (which I must take from my own), and a watch-coat."

**1791** At Augusta the President assured Governor Edmund Telfair, "I shall always retain a most pleasing remembrance of the polite and hospitable attentions which I have received in my tour through the state of Georgia, and during my stay at the residence of your government."

"During the whole period of his life he was the thinking part of the nation. He was its mind; it was his image and illustration. If we would classify and measure him, it must be with nations, not individuals. In all things admirable; in all things to be imitated; in some things scarce imitable and only to be admired."

*Rufus Wilmot Griswold (Vermont).*

**MAY TWENTY-FIRST.**

**1772** Colonel Washington wrote to Rev. Jonathan Boucher: "Inclination having yielded to Importunity, I am now contrary to all expectation, under the hands of Mr. Peale; but in so grave, so sullen a mood, and now and then under the influence of Morpheus, when some critical strokes are making, that I fancy the skill of this Gentleman's Pencil, will be put to it, in describing to the World what manner of man I am. I have no doubt of Mr. Peale's meeting very good Incouragement in a tour to Williamsburg; for having mentioned him to some Gentlemen at our Court they seem desirous of employing him on his way down."

**1776** The Commander-in-chief, having placed Major-General Putnam in command at New York, left for Philadelphia, in obedience to an order from Congress. He was accompanied by his wife; and they tarried over night at Amboy, where Washington "viewed the ground," and decided what works would be proper for the defense of that point.

**1791** "Left Augusta about 6 o'clock & taking leave of the Governor & principal Gentlemen of the place at the bridge over Savanna River, where they had assembled for the purpose; I proceeded in company with Col<sup>l</sup> Hampton & Taylor & Mr. Lithgow, a Committee from Columbia." *Washington's Diary.*

"If we designate by 'Character' a combination of will and principle, Washington was a man of great character. . . . Washington loved his country as an upright patriot, but we recollect no case in which his patriotism dimmed his conscientiousness. . . . Washington never persecuted; he imprisoned no personal enemy; and when he died, his hands, like those of Pericles, were unstained."

*Francis Lieber (Germany).*

**MAY TWENTY-SECOND.**

**1782** To Colonel Lewis Nicola's suggestion that he should take advantage of the discontent in the army and the dilatory action of Congress, and "Assume the Crown of America," Washington sent a stern and indignant rebuke, concluding with, "Let me conjure you, if you have any regard for your country, concern for yourself, or posterity, or respect for me: to banish these thoughts from your mind, and never communicate a sentiment of the like nature."

**1794** "I learn with concern that your crops are still laboring under a drought, and most of them very much injured. At disappointments and losses which are the effects of providential acts, I never repine, because I am sure the alwise disposer of events knows better than we do, what is best for us, or what we deserve." *Washington to his manager.*

**1802** Martha Dandridge, widow of George Washington, died at Mount Vernon. It is rare to find among representative women of the Old or New World, one who so faithfully and with such dignity stood beside a hero and became so unobtrusively a part of his life.

"Because there was but one consenting voice  
In the world's estimate of him in whom  
Our Country's fate was centred, and whose  
hand  
By wisdom and by valor guided, wrought  
The freedom in whose light the nation lives —  
Wherefore all praise of him has grown to be

"Conventional and trite—as if a man  
Should praise the sunshine and the air, and all  
The enfolding elements of mortal life,  
And so the mighty name of Washington  
Is the grand synonym of all we prize  
Of great and good in this wide Western World."  
*Christopher Pearse Cranch (Virginia).*

**MAY TWENTY-THIRD.**

**1756** Colonel Washington, from the frontier, wrote to Governor Dinwiddie: "It gave me infinite concern to find the Assembly had levied their troops until December only. By the time they shall have entered into the service, they will claim a discharge. To get the least smattering of the duty they cannot, and we find by experience, that our poor and ragged soldiers would kill the most likely militia in five days marching, so little are the latter acquainted with fatigue."

**1776** Congress, sitting in Philadelphia, appointed Benjamin Harrison, Richard H. Lee, John Adams, James Wilson, and Edward Rutledge a committee to confer with Generals Washington, Gates, and Mifflin on "the most speedy and effectual means for supporting the American cause in Canada."

**1781** The Commander-in-chief and Count de Rochambeau determined to attack Sir Henry Clinton at New York. During the few days at Wethersfield, Washington saw a great deal of his dear friend and patriotic adviser, Jonathan Trumbull. This record is made in his journal: "Count de Rochambeau set out on his return to Newport, while I prepared and forwarded dispatches to the four New England States calling on them, in earnest and pointed terms, to compleat their Continental Battalions for the campaign."

**1788** South Carolina adopted the Federal Constitution.

"What Englishman is there who is not proud of the once dreaded name of Washington."  
*Dean Stanley (England).*

### MAY TWENTY-FOURTH.

**1774** The Virginia House of Burgesses, of which Colonel Washington had been a member since 1758, learning the order of Parliament to close the port of Boston on the first day of June, resolved: "That a day be set apart by this House as a day of humiliation and prayer, devoutly to implore the divine intervention for the heavy calamity that threatens their civil rights." A resolution was offered by Richard Henry Lee for a general congress of the colonies. These acts so incensed Governor Dunmore, that two days later he dissolved the House. This old Colonial hall had been a training-school of Virginia patriots.

**1779** The Commander-in-chief, from Middlebrook, wrote to the president of Congress: "The predatory war, which the enemy now seem resolved to carry on, will be very distressing. Little aid can be afforded from the army in its present situation, and the militia appear too ill provided with arms to defend themselves. How this can be remedied, and the army supplied, I know not."

**1791** The President, at Columbia, S. C., offered the seat on the Supreme Bench, made vacant by the resignation of John Rutledge, to Edmund Rutledge, and then to Charles Cotesworth Pinckney; both of these distinguished, conscientious patriots declined that great honor.

"Washington (1769) towered now on the threshold of an arena of danger, death, and glory from which he was to emerge in after years worn, stern and gray, but with such a halo of external fame about his lofty head, as was never before nor since accorded to man by the universal acclaim of the civilized world."

*Daniel W. Voorhees (Indiana).*

### MAY TWENTY-FIFTH.

**1787** A quorum being established, Robert Morris, in the absence of Benjamin Franklin, who was too feeble to brave a severe storm, nominated George Washington, of Virginia, and he was unanimously chosen "President of the Constitutional Convention," and conducted to the chair by Robert Morris of Pennsylvania and John Rutledge of South Carolina. Perhaps no other man could have so controlled and held together those discordant elements. The convention was the great battle-field of sections; and over every point there was a fierce contest. When Washington took the chair, he said: "Let us raise a standard to which the wise and honest can repair; the event is in the hands of God."

**1791** President Washington, at Camden, S. C., visited the grave of De Kalb, and to the citizens said: "Your grateful remembrance of that excellent friend and gallant officer, the Baron De Kalb, does honor to the goodness of your hearts. With your regrets I mingle mine for his loss, and to your praise I join the tribute of my esteem for his memory." The following day he made this entry: "After viewing the British works about Camden, I set out for Charlotte on my way, two miles from town, and examined the ground on which Genl. Green and Lord Rawden had their action (Hobkirk's Hill, April 25, 1781). . . . Six miles further on I came to the ground where Genl. Gates and Lord Cornwallis had their engagement (August 16, 1782), which terminated so unfavorably for the former."

"Men agree to honor Washington because in his life they think they have a demonstration that right is might."

*Edward Everett Hale (Massachusetts).*

**MAY TWENTY-SIXTH.**

**1777** "Let vice and immorality of every kind be discouraged as much as possible, and as a Chaplain is allowed to each regiment, see that the men regularly attend divine worship. Gaming of every kind is expressly forbidden, as being the foundation of evil and the cause of many a brave and gallant officer's ruin. Games of exercise for amusement may not only be permitted but encouraged." *Washington's Orderly Book (Morristown).*

**1781** Washington received a notification from Hon. John Laurens, Paris, that 6,000,000 livres had been donated to the American cause, to be applied in part to the purchase of arms and clothes for the troops, and the balance to his order. This at once aroused the jealousy of Congress, or rather of that faction on the outlook for a grievance against the Commander-in-chief; and might have resulted in embarrassment, but for the ready diplomacy of the Marquis de la Luzerne, who inserted "or to some other person."

**1785** En route to Annapolis, Bishop Francis Asbury, and Rev. Thomas Coxe, of the M. E. Church, dined at Mount Vernon by invitation. They asked Washington if he thought it wise to sign a petition for the emancipation of slaves. He replied that it would not be proper for him, but added, "If the Maryland Assembly discussed the matter; I will address a letter to that body on the subject, as I have always approved of it."

"To give an opinion about Washington seems to me about like giving an opinion on Truth, or Honor, or Patriotism." *Elizabeth Stuart Phelps Ward (Massachusetts).*

**MAY TWENTY-SEVENTH.**

**1774** Colonel Washington was one of the eighty-nine burgesses who met at "Raleigh Tavern," and formed an association to correspond with other colonies in regard to "The Cause of Boston." The following entries in his diary show, though the excitement was so great, there was no interruption of courtesy between these courtly gentlemen: "Rid out with the Governor to his farm and breakfasted with him there." "Dined at the Treasurers, and went to a ball at Williamsburg in honor of Lady Dunmore, given by the House of Burgesses."

**1776** The Commander-in-chief, accompanied by Generals Gates and Mifflin, and in the presence of the President and a large number of congressmen, reviewed 2800 city militia on the Parade Ground, Philadelphia. He also reviewed two battalions of Continental troops. He was accompanied by several Indian chiefs, who were in the city "to attend to some business before Congress."

**1786** General Washington superintended the improvements needed at Mount Vernon after an absence of eight years. This day he records: "Finished laying twenty-eight courses of the pavement in my Piazza. Weather very unfavorable for it." This piazza is ninety-six feet long, twelve and a half feet wide. The flagging was brought from the Isle of Wight, ordered after Washington had seen several specimens. It is twelve inches square, two and a half inches thick, and remains as he laid it more than a century ago.

"Since the day God created man on the earth, none ever displayed the power of industry more frugally than did George Washington." *Rev. Mason L. Weems (South Carolina).*

**MAY TWENTY-EIGHTH.**

**1754** Lieutenant-Colonel Washington and John Davison, Half-King of the Mingoos, had a skirmish at Great Meadows with Captain Jumonville and a small detachment of French. Jumonville was killed, and the French claimed that this officer was on a peaceful mission and that Washington had killed an ambassador; but papers on his body established the fact that Jumonville was in command of a reconnoitering party.

**1782** "The Commander-in-chief is happy in the opportunity of announcing to the army the birth of a Dauphin of France; and desirous of giving a general occasion for testifying the satisfaction which, he is convinced, will pervade the breast of every American officer and soldier on the communication of an event so highly interesting to a monarch and nation who have given such distinguishing proofs of their attachment, is pleased to order a feu-de joie on Thursday next." *Washington's Orderly Book (Newburg).*

**1789** Mrs. Washington, Mrs. Morris, and Mrs. Jay, who had passed the night at "Liberty Hall," Elizabeth, the home of Governor Livingston, were joined at breakfast by their husbands. The party embarked on the President's barge, and reached New York at noon. "No foreign Queen was ever welcomed by a loving people with more genuine delight."

"The character of Washington in war, in peace and in private life is the most sublime on historical record."  
*William Hickling Prescott (Massachusetts).*

**MAY TWENTY-NINTH.**

**1754** From Great Meadows Lieutenant-Colonel Washington sent to Governor Dinwiddie four Frenchmen with a letter, saying, "The bearers hereof, Monsieur Drouillon, Monsieur La Force, and two cadets, I beg leave to recommend to your particular notice as prisoners of war and officers whom I had the honor of taking. The French Prisoners asked me in what Manner I looked upon them, whether as the Attendants of an Ambassador, or as Prisoners of War: I answered them that it was in the Quality of the Latter."

**1786** "About nine o'clock, Mr. Tobias Lear, who had been previously engaged on a salary of two hundred dollars a year to live with me as private secretary, and preceptor for Washington Custis, came here from New Hampshire, at which place his friends reside." *Washington's Diary (Mount Vernon).*

**1789** President Washington gave his first State dinner at the Executive Mansion, No. 10 Cherry Street, New York. The guests were the Governor of New York, the Vice-President, the Speaker of the House, Hon. John Jay, General St. Clair, several senators, and the foreign ministers. It was most informal. "Washington standing at the head of the table asked a blessing." The following day Mrs. Washington held her first drawing-room, which event Daniel Huntington has portrayed in his beautiful painting, "The Republican Court." The President described the company as "large and respectable."

**1790** Rhode Island adopted the Federal Constitution.

"Washington never neglected any duties, filial, domestic or public."  
*Benson John Lossing (New York).*

**MAY THIRTIETH.**

**1755** Colonel Washington, having been despatched on the 15th, by General Braddock, to Williamsburg, reached the camp at Wills Creek (Cumberland, Md.), bringing four thousand pounds, the result of his mission to the capital. His position as aide-de-camp to the general had been officially announced.

**1757** Colonel Washington, from Fort Loudoun, Winchester, Va.,—the most important of the chain of frontier defenses he established,—wrote to the Speaker of the House of Burgesses that, "Bullen, a Catawba warrior, has been proposing a plan to Captain Gist for bringing in the Creek and Chickasaw Indians. If such a scheme as this can be effected by the time we shall march to Fort Duquesne, it would be a glorious undertaking, and worthy the man."

**1794** The Senate confirmed the nomination of John Quincy Adams as minister resident to The Hague. He was only twenty-eight when Washington gave him this important mission, and the selection was justified in the long and brilliant career of "the old man eloquent." The first President never lost interest in the young diplomat whom he so successfully launched on a brilliant career.

"If my wishes would be of any avail, they would go to you in a *strong hope* that you will not withhold merited promotion from Mr. John Quincy Adams because he is your son. For without intending to compliment the father or mother, or to censure any others, I give it as a decided opinion that Mr. Adams is the most valuable public character we have abroad and that he will prove himself to be the ablest of our Diplomatic Corps."

*Washington to President Adams (1797).*

**MAY THIRTY-FIRST.**

**1754** Upon the death this day at Cumberland, Md., of Colonel Joshua Fry, the distinguished scholar and highly trusted officer, the command of the Virginia forces in the expedition against the French and Indians devolved upon Lieutenant-Colonel Washington. Reinforcements were sent him, and five days later Governor Dinwiddie promoted him to the rank of colonel.

**1769** "Set off with Mrs. Washington and Patsy, Mr. Warner Washington and wife, Mrs. Bushrod and Miss Washington, and Mr. Magowen for Towlston, in order to stand for Mr. B. Fairfax's third son, which I did together with my wife, Mr. Warner Washington and his lady." *Washington's Diary (Mount Vernon).*

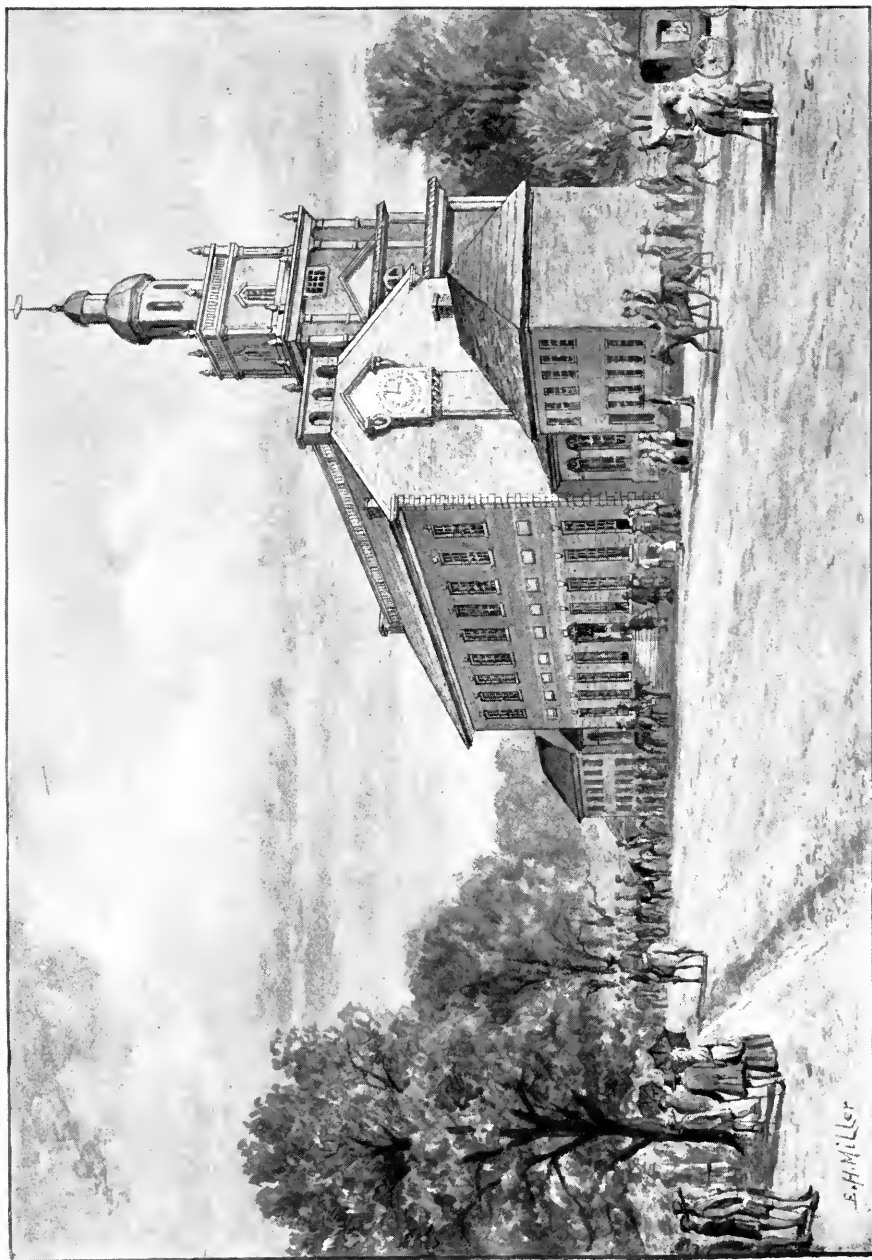
**1790** President Washington, at the Executive Mansion in New York, received from Thomas Paine, London, the "Key of the Bastile," sent by Lafayette, who said: "It is a tribute which I owe as a son to my adopted Father; as an aide-de-camp to my General; as a Missionary of Liberty to its patriarch." When Paine transmitted it to Washington, he wrote: "That the principles of America opened the Bastile is not to be doubted; therefore the key comes to the right place." The key now hangs under a glass case at Mount Vernon, where Washington placed it. Benjamin West, the venerable painter, asked Colonel Trumbull to make this presentation the subject of an historical picture.

"Washington invested everything he touched with a kind of sacredness."

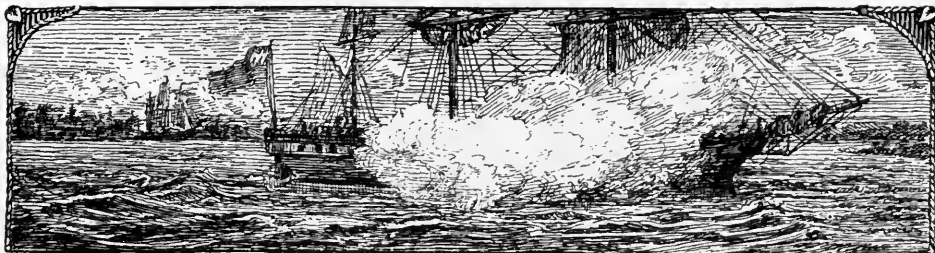
*Dr. Von Holst (Germany).*







INDEPENDENCE HALL, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA, 1787.  
After an old print.



## JUNE FIRST.

**1774** Colonel Washington went to church and fasted all day, in pursuance of the resolution passed by the House of Burgesses. Of the feeling in regard to closing the port of Boston, Jefferson said: "The people met generally with anxiety and alarm in their countenances, and the effect of the day, through the whole Colony, was like a shock of electricity, arousing every man, and placing him erect and solidly on his center."

**1780** The Commander-in-chief, through a handbill published by authority in the city of New York, received the news of the capitulation by Major-General Lincoln to Sir Henry Clinton of Charleston, S. C. At this time he was also greatly depressed by the discords and dissensions existing between subordinate commands, and having close to his heart the union of the Colonies and the unity of the army, he thus wrote to a member of Congress: "I see one head gradually changing into thirteen, I see one army branching into thirteen, which, instead of looking up to Congress as the Supreme controlling power of the United States, are considering themselves as dependent on their respective States."

**1787** During the sitting of the Convention, Washington seems to have found social relaxations. Among other recreations he notes: "Accompanied Mrs. Morris and some ladies to hear a Mrs. O'Connell read. The lady being reduced in circumstances had recourse to this expedient to obtain a little money."

**1791** To the United Brethren of the Moravian Church, Salem, N. C., the President said: "From a society whose governing principles are industry and love of order, much may be expected towards the improvement and prosperity of the country in which their settlements are found, and experience authorizes the belief that much will be obtained."

**1792** President Washington approved the act admitting Kentucky into the Union. This Territory had been greatly disturbed regarding the restrictions of Statehood, and nine conventions were held before the people were satisfied. On this day four years later he approved the act admitting Tennessee, making three States added to the Union and three stars added to the flag during his administration.

"Oh! who shall know of the might  
Of the words he uttered there?  
The fate of nations then was turned  
By the fervor of that prayer.

"But wouldst thou know his words,  
Who wandered there alone?  
Go, read enrolled in Heaven's archives,  
The prayer of Washington." *Anon.*

## JUNE SECOND.

**1754** Colonel Washington, from Great Meadow Camp, wrote Governor Dinwiddie of the arrival of "the Half King with about 25 Familys, count'g near 80 persons including women and children. He has given me some acc't of the Twigtees, Wyandotts, and several other nations of Indians, which I have transmitted to your Honor by an express."

**1779** The Commander-in-chief received at Middlebrook addresses from ministers and deacons of the Dutch Reformed Church of Raritan, N. J., commending his wisdom, caution, and patriotism, and assuring him of the support of their people. Having given General Sullivan a command of three thousand men, with the order to penetrate "the very heart of the Indian Settlement" and avenge the massacre of Wyoming on the Six Nations, he wrote to the president of Congress: "I expect to set out to-morrow towards the Highlands, by way of Morristown. We shall press forward with all diligence, and do every thing in our power to disappoint the enemy."

**1783** General Washington, from Newburg, issued orders in conformity with a resolution of Congress: "To grant furloughs to noncommissioned officers and soldiers enlisted to serve during the war, who shall be discharged as soon as the definitive treaty of peace is concluded; that the Secretary of War take the proper measures for conducting those troops to their respective homes."

"I regard George Washington as not only one of the great men of history, but in a conspicuous sense as an instrument in the hands of Providence in effecting the civil and political emancipation of this nation, as Moses was the instrument of God in the deliverance of the Hebrew people from religious bondage."  
*John, Cardinal Gibbons.*

## JUNE THIRD.

**1773** Colonel Washington, returning from Princeton, where he accompanied his stepson, Mr. Custis, notes in his diary: "Rid to the Meadows along the River before breakfast. About 11 o'clock left Philadelphia; dined at the Sorrel House, 13 miles from it, and lodged at the Ship Tavern, 34 off." Upon his arrival at Mount Vernon he found his stepdaughter, Martha Parke Custis, to whom he was devoted, alarmingly ill. In one of his domestic orders to London in 1759, these significant items appear: "A fashionably dressed doll-Baby, to cost one guinea, another, to cost five shillings."

**1776** Congress, at the suggestion of the Commander-in-chief, passed an act calling for ten thousand troops, to establish in the Middle Colonies a "Flying Camp" as a reserve force. Washington was anxious to have the recruits in camp for drilling and discipline, and wrote strong letters urging Governor Trumbull and other governors to hurry the enlistment of their quotas.

**1790** President Washington congratulated himself upon his official surroundings: "By having Mr. Jefferson at the head of the Department of State, Mr. Jay of the Judiciary, Mr. Hamilton of the Treasury and Knox of that of War, I feel myself supported by able coadjutors, who harmonize extremely well together."

"As a Warrior he served refusing pay and led in the achievement of our independence. As a Statesman and Lawgiver his guiding wisdom assisted in framing the Constitutional Law. As first President of the United States he governed with firmness and moderation."

*John Sartain (Pennsylvania).*

## JUNE FOURTH.

**1775** Washington wrote his wife that Mr. and Mrs. Morris had persuaded him to have his luggage brought and remain there during his stay. "Dined at Robert Morris's on the banks of the *School kill*." *Washington's Diary*. This is a significant record of the beginning of a friendship between the future Commander of the American forces and the able and patriotic financier of the Revolution. Their relations were not affected by the strange vicissitudes of fortune: to-day the guest of Morris in his palatial home, and nearly a quarter of a century later visiting the same friend within the gloomy walls of a debtors' prison.

**1782** Washington wrote from the Hudson: "I am just informed by the secretary of war, that Captain Asgill of the British guards, an unfortunate officer who is destined to be the unhappy victim to atone for the death of Captain Huddy, had arrived in Philadelphia, and would set off soon for the Jersey line, the place assigned for his execution."

**1790** President Washington congratulated Governor Fenner upon the ratification of the Constitution by Rhode Island and the Providence Plantation, saying, "Since the bond of union is now complete and we are once more considered as one family, it is to be hoped reproaches will cease and judgments be done away with."

"His more than Roman virtues, his consummate prudence, his powerful intellect, and his dauntless decision and dignity of character, would have made him illustrious in any age. The crisis would have done nothing for him, had not his character stood ready to merit it."

*William Wirt (Virginia).*

## JUNE FIFTH.

**1771** Colonel Washington wrote to Dr. Boucher in regard to Jack Custis: "However desirable it may be to see him travel under the care of a Gentleman who would endeavor to guard, & steer him clear of those follies & vices which youth almost imperceptibly falls into, at the same time that he was instilling into him taste for useful knowledge and improvement. Yet I must own I should never wish to see him set out for England, at his time of Life recommended to the care of a merchant only, or to Embark on a Tour of the kind you propose without a Conductor." Dr. Jonathan Boucher, Jacky Custis's preceptor, was a fine classic scholar; but in 1776 his Tory principles were so offensive to the patriotic Marylanders that his property was confiscated, and he was glad to get back to "Merrie England."

**1783** General Washington, referring to the only major-general of the four appointed when he took command of the army who remained in service until the close of the war, said: "Among the many worthy and meritorious officers, with whom I have had the happiness to be connected in service through the course of this war, and from whose cheerful assistance and advice I have received much support and confidence, in the various and trying vicissitudes of a complicated contest, the name of a Putnam is not forgotten."

"Washington read little, but with close attention. Whatever he took in hand he applied himself to with ease, and his papers which have been preserved, show how almost imperceptibly he gained the power of writing correctly, always expressing himself with clearness and directness, often with felicity of language and grace."

*George Bancroft.*

## JUNE SIXTH.

**1754** Colonel Washington noted: "Mr. Gist is returned, and acquaints me of the Death of poor Colonel Fry, and of the safe Arrival of the French Prisoners at Winchester, which gave the Governor great satisfaction. I am also informed that, Mr. Montour (an Indian trader) is coming with a Commission to command Two Hundred Indians."

**1783** The Commander-in-chief received at Newburg an address from the generals and other officers commanding regiments and corps in the cantonment on the Hudson River, in regard to furloughing officers and soldiers without satisfactory settlement of their accounts. In reply, he assured them, "Congress would attend particularly to their grievances," but begged their patience in consideration of the state of the finances.

**1793** Mrs. Fielding Lewis, from Kenmore, wrote her brother, the President, in regard to her niece Harriet, a gay, bright girl, very much on their minds: "The money you sent from Philadelphia purchased her a dress for the Birthnight. It must have appeared Particular had I refused to let her go, and having nothing fit for that purpose obliged me to lay out that money for that dress." "The Birthnight" was the annual ball in Alexandria, February 22d.

"There is a remarkable air of dignity about him, with a striking degree of gracefulness. He has an excellent understanding, without much quickness, is strictly just, vigilant and generous; an affectionate husband, a faithful friend, a father to the deserving soldier, gentle in his manner, in temper mild, a total stranger to religious prejudices; in morals, irreproachable, and never known to exceed the bounds of the most rigid temperance." *London Chronicle* (1780).

## JUNE SEVENTH.

**1755** From the frontier Colonel Washington wrote his mother he regretted that he was unable to furnish her with a Dutch servant, or send her the butter she desired, "as we are quite out of the part of the country where edibles are to be had, and I am sorry not to have been able to stop and see you either going or coming from Williamsburg." To his brother he said: "I was escorted by 8 men of the militia of Winchester to this camp; which 8 men were two days assembling, but I believe they would not have been more than as many seconds dispersing if I had been attacked."

**1777** General Washington expressed surprise and indignation at the opposition to inoculation, and wrote his brother: "Surely, that Impolitic Act restraining Inoculation in Virginia can never be continued. If I were a member of that Assembly I would rather move for a Law to compel Masters of Families to inoculate every child born within a certain limited time, under Severe Penalties."

**1796** Washington, always intolerant of dishonesty, wrote the following characteristic instructions to his overseer: "I wish you would find out who robbed the meat-house at Mount Vernon and bring him to punishment, and at the same time secure the house against further attempts, for our drafts will be pretty large I expect when we come home."

"By common consent Washington is regarded as not merely the Hero of the American Revolution, but the World's Apostle of Liberty."

*John Frederick Schroeder, D. D. (Maryland).*

### JUNE EIGHTH.

**1782** The Commander-in-chief ordered the first badge of distinction to be conferred upon all soldiers who had served with credit in the army for three years. The decoration consisted of a white stripe on the upper part of the sleeve, "forming a herring-bone figure."

**1783** General Washington sent to Congress for its consideration the celebrated circular letter which he had addressed to the governors and presidents of the thirteen colonies, earnestly and eloquently urging upon them the necessity of a federal union. It is classified among the most important emanations from Washington's prolific pen. The original is in the archives of the Department of State at Washington.

**1788** The *Federalist*, a miniature ship fifteen feet long, used in the procession at Baltimore, in celebrating the ratification of the Constitution, was manned by sea-captains and commanded by Barney, who, having sailed her down the Chesapeake and up the Potomac to Mount Vernon, presented her to Washington in the name of the merchants and ship-masters of Baltimore. In his diary of the 9th he said they arrived to breakfast and remained all night. Captain Barney was the first accredited officer of the United States Navy; commission signed February 22, 1796, to take effect from June 4, 1794.

"Washington's circular letter sent from Newburgh was the keystone of the Union. It was termed 'the inestimable legacy bequeathed to his country.' . . . It is my opinion that Washington's influence will do more than all the assemblies on the continent. I have always thought him exceedingly popular, but in many places he is little less than adored and universally admired."  
*General Nathaniel Greene (Rhode Island).*

### JUNE NINTH.

**1756** In a letter to Governor Dinwiddie, Colonel Washington accepted the command of the Virginia troops. The force was 1600 strong, and had a large element of vigorous frontiersmen, who had participated more or less in the various Indian campaigns.

**1768** Colonel Washington notes in his diary the departure of the attorney-general of the colony of Virginia, who, with his wife and daughter, had been spending several days at Mount Vernon. A large party of neighbors and friends had been invited to meet them. The generous hospitality of country gentlemen in the Old Dominion was fashioned after the manner of their English ancestors.

**1778** At Washington's headquarters, Valley Forge, General Charles Lee took the oath of allegiance to the United States of America, having been a prisoner when it was administered to the army. Since his exchange this brilliant officer had received every consideration from the Commander-in-chief; in fact, had been the pet of the camp. At this very time his mind was filled with treacherous schemes against the patriot cause.

"When everything in the education and environments of Washington tended to shape his views as a supporter of the ancient principle of hereditary monarchy and aristocratic institutions, he threw himself with his whole force, and apparently without personal ambition, into the scale of republican government, so that it became the winning side, not only then but now; and the truth of his moral discernment is seen in the almost infallible sagacity of his political wisdom."  
*James Mason Hoppin, LL. D. (Yale College).*

## JUNE TENTH.

**1754** Lieutenant-Colonel Washington, at the request of Queen Alaquippa, admitted her son to the council-fire. He also presented to him a medal, and bestowed upon him the name of "Colonel Fairfax," which the Indians interpreted "The first of the council." Learning that the Half-King desired an English name, he called him "Dinwiddie," saying to the old brave: "The head of all." He gave to each chief a medal, wearing one himself, "in remembrance of our great father the King of England."

**1783** General Washington wrote from Newburg to the "Commissioners of Embarkation," in New York, a long and diplomatic letter upon their limited power in conducting the embarkation of the British troops under Sir Guy Carleton, saying, "The power is not in our hands. . . . I see little more that you will be able to do than be witnesses of the various acts that will probably pass under your cognizance." As the army was being gradually disbanded, it was announced, "For the Present, there will be one Field Officer, and an Adjutant for the day; and the guards only will form on the grand parade at nine o'clock in the morning."

"In his letters he is plain; in his public address elegant; in all he is correct, expressing in a small compass his clear conceptions, without tiresome nervousity or any parade of ornament. In attending to what has fallen from his pen the connection between modes of thinking and writing, between character and composition, is apparent. His writings are worded with the strong and pleasing features of sincerity, simplicity, and dignity."

*John Davis, before the Massachusetts Historical Society (1800).*

## JUNE ELEVENTH.

**1779** From Smith's Tavern, in the Clove, the Commander-in-chief wrote to the president of Congress: "We have taken post for the present with the main body of the army in this Clove; where we are as well situated as we could be anywhere else, to succor the forts (on the Hudson) in case the future operations of the enemy should be directed against them." Two days after this letter, Washington, leaving General Putnam in command, went to West Point.

**1783** Congress read and discussed Washington's circular letter, addressed to the governors of all the States, on disbanding the army. He said there are four things essential to the existence of the United States as an independent power: "An indissoluble union of the States under one federal head,—a sacred regard to public justice,—The adoption of a proper peace establishment—The prevalence of that pacific and friendly disposition among the people of the United States, which will induce them to forget their local prejudices and politics; to make those mutual concessions, which are requisite to the general prosperity; and in some instances, to sacrifice their individual advantages to the interest of the community."

"The gift of personal leadership is one that threatens its possessor with continual harm. History shows us but one Washington, who could self denyingly lay down his high office before continuance in power was likely to injure his country or himself. Perhaps we shall never know how much we owe, as the first republic on earth, in the preservation of democratic principles to this lofty act of self denial."

*Celia Parker Woolley (Ohio).*



### JUNE TWELFTH.

**1757** Colonel Washington, at Fort Loudoun, was perplexed by the mismanagement of Indian affairs. He said: "I acknowledge my incompetency, and therefore shall only observe that the Indians have been pleased and displeased oftener than they should have been." Colonel Stanwix said the Indian agents "were jealous of each other, and jealous of the Provinces."

**1784** From Mount Vernon, Washington wrote James Madison: "Can nothing be done in our Assembly for poor Paine? Must the merits and services of 'Common Sense,' continue to glide down the stream of time, unrewarded by this country? His writings certainly have had a powerful effect upon the public mind. He is poor, he is chagrined, and almost in despair of relief."

**1791** President Washington, accompanied by Major Jackson, returned to Mount Vernon from his Southern tour, having been absent two months. He wrote to Alexander Hamilton, Secretary of the Treasury: "The improbability of performing a tour of seventeen hundred miles with the same set of horses, without encountering any accident by which a deviation would be rendered unavoidable appeared so great, that I allowed eight days for casualties. None having happened, I shall refresh myself at this place."

"It was a most fortunate thing for the country that the first democratic ruler might have sat upon a throne with all the dignity of a princely seion. He had all the virtues of a King without any of his vices. The first of the Presidents will remain the ideal of all coming Presidents, and not appear small, even when the present sixty shall have expanded to six hundred millions of citizens of these United States."

*Gustav Gottheil, D. D. (New York).*

### JUNE THIRTEENTH.

**1758** Colonel Washington returned to his command at Fort Loudoun after a second visit to Mrs. Custis at her home on the Pamunkey, which absence extended over a fortnight. He determined to leave the army as soon as possible, happy in the prospect of a retired domestic life with this charming woman.

**1777** The Commander-in-chief made this suggestion to Colonel Daniel Morgan, commanding the Virginia Rangers: "It occurs to me, that, if you were to dress a Company or two of the true Woodsmen in the Indian style, and let them make the attack with screaming and yelling, as the Indians do, it would have very good consequences; especially if as little as possible were said or known about the matter before hand."

**1796** President Washington left Philadelphia for Mount Vernon, having previously notified his manager that during his stay a throng of visitors might be expected, and entered into detail as to "ample provision for the same." Among the guests were the French, British, Spanish, and Portuguese ministers, and other people of distinction.

"Ever superior to fortune, he enjoyed her smiles with moderation, and endured her frowns with serenity; and showed himself alike in victory forbearing and in defeat undaunted. . . . Perhaps there never was another man who trod with more unsullied honor the highest ways of glory, or whose personal character and conduct exercised an influence so powerful and so beneficial on the destiny of a nation."

*James Grahame, LL. D. (Scotland).*

## JUNE FOURTEENTH.

**1775** Hon. John Adams wrote his wife he had notified the Congress he would at a proper time nominate a general: "I said I had but one gentleman in my mind for that important command, and that gentleman was from Virginia. . . . Mr. Washington, who happened to sit near the door, as soon as he heard me allude to him, from his usual modesty, darted into the Library Room." On the fifth Hon. Thomas Johnson of Maryland had suggested Washington as the "most efficient man for the Commander-in-chief of the Colonial Forces."

**1777** Before Congress, sitting at Philadelphia, the "Committee on the war" offered a resolution: "That the flag of the 13 United States be 13 stripes, alternate red and white; that the Union be 13 stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation," which unanimously passed that body; and by this act established our national emblem. The thirteen alternate stripes of red and white in "The first flag of America" was retained, as Washington had said, "out of compliment to the United Colonies."

"A hundred years with all their train  
Of shadow have gone by,  
And yet his glorious name remains  
A sound that cannot die!  
'T is graven on the hill, the vale,  
And on the mountain tall,  
And speaks in every sounding gale  
And roaring waterfall!

"His deeds were ours—but through the world  
That mighty name will be,  
Where glory's banner is unfurled,  
The watchword of the free—  
And as they bend their eagle eyes,  
On Victory's burning sun,  
Their shouts will echo to the skies  
'Our God and Washington!'"

*George D. Prentice (New Hampshire).*

## JUNE FIFTEENTH.

**1775** George Washington, Esq., of Virginia, was nominated by Hon. Thomas Johnson, of Maryland, "to command all the Continental Forces raised or to be raised for the defense of American Liberty." The nomination was seconded by Samuel Adams of Massachusetts. The election was made by ballot, and Washington was unanimously chosen. The House also resolved, "That five hundred dollars per month be allowed for the pay and expenses of the General."

**1781** General Washington, from New Windsor, congratulated the army on the glorious news received from General Greene of the successive victories in South Carolina: the forced evacuation of Camden by Lord Rawdon, the surrender of Orangeburg to General Sumter, of Fort Mott to General Marion, and Fort Granby to Lieutenant-Colonel Lee.

**1790** Referring to the criticism that there was more pomp at his receptions than at the court of St. James, President Washington said: "Between the hours of three and four every tuesday, gentlemen, often in great numbers, come and go. A porter shows them into the room, and they retire from it when they please, without ceremony. At their first entrance, they salute me, and I them, and as many as I can talk to, I do. What pomp there is in all this, I am unable to discover. Perhaps it consists in *not sitting*."

"To George Washington nearly alone in modern times, had it been given to accomplish a wonderful revolution, and yet to remain to all future time the theme of a people's gratitude and an example of virtuous and beneficent power."

*Lord John Russell (England).*

**JUNE SIXTEENTH.**

**1775** President Hancock personally informed Colonel Washington that he had been unanimously chosen to command the Continental army. In a speech from the floor of the House, Washington formally accepted the command of the army, asking each member to remember that he did not consider himself equal to the great responsibility with which he had been honored. He also said: "As to pay, Sir, I beg leave to assure the Congress that as no pecuniary consideration could have tempted me to accept this arduous employment, at the expense of my domestic ease and happiness, I do not wish to make any profit from it. I will keep an exact account of my expenses. Those I doubt not they will discharge, and that is all I desire."

**1786** General Washington records in his diary: "Began about 10 o'clock to put up the book-press in my study." This was his library, in the south extension, and was included in the improvements at Mount Vernon, between 1784 and 1787. Although Washington never had time to be a student, a catalogue of his books embraces a wide range of subjects and indicates taste in selection. In 1848 Jared Sparks and Andrews Norton collected through subscription \$5,000, and purchased more than half of Washington's library for the Boston Athenaeum.

"Angels might see, with joy, the sage,  
Who taught the battle where to rage,  
Or quench'd its spreading flame,

"On works of peace employ that hand,  
Which wav'd the blade of high command  
And hew'd the path to fame."

*Col. David Humphreys (1786).*

**JUNE SEVENTEENTH.**

**1758** Colonel Washington, earnestly hoping for an improvement in the administration of military affairs, from Fort Loudoun congratulated Francis Fauquier, Esq., upon his appointment to succeed Governor Dinwiddie.

**1775** The second Colonial Congress at Philadelphia having unanimously chosen George Washington to be General and Commander-in-Chief, the delegates, from Nova Scotia to Georgia, resolved "that they will maintain and assist him and adhere to him, the said George Washington, with their Lives and Fortunes in the same cause." John Adams wrote his wife: "I can now inform you that the Congress have made choice of the modest and virtuous, the amiable, generous and brave George Washington, Esq., to be General of the American Army. This appointment will have a great effect in securing the union of these Colonies."

**1787** "Went to church, heard Bishop White preach, and see him ordain two gentlemen Deacons, after which rid 8 miles in the country and dined with Mr. John Ross, Chester County." *Washington's Journal.*

"There was not a man on the Eastern Continent whom Napoleon did not desire to rule, nor one on the Western whom Washington did not wish to endow with the right of self-government. Who to-day would exchange the chaplet of thorns which he wore at Valley Forge for all the diadems which Napoleon gathered at Paris? Or who would prefer the fallen vanity which fretted in peevishness on the death-bed on the gloomy sea-girt island to the sweet tranquility which fell asleep at Mount Vernon? While France is still looking imploringly for a deliverer of the highest and best order, America is entwining her first century around the brow of her 'Father.' The world watches the new coronation with wonder and involuntarily exclaims, 'We have seen but one Washington.'"

*Thomas Armitage, D. D. (New York).*

## JUNE EIGHTEENTH.

**1775** General Washington at Philadelphia began his preparations for joining the troops at Cambridge. He wrote to his wife: "You may believe me, my dear Patsy, when I assure you, in the most solemn manner, that, so far from seeking this appointment, I have used every endeavour in my power to avoid it, not only from my unwillingness to part with you and the Family, but a consciousness of its being a trust too great for my capability, and that I would enjoy more real happiness and felicity in one month with you at home than I have the most distant prospect of finding abroad, if my stay were to be seven times seven years."

**1778** General Washington, learning early in the morning that Sir Henry Clinton had evacuated Philadelphia, began breaking up camp at Valley Forge, prepared to follow the British with all possible despatch. He announced: "We shall proceed towards Jersey, and govern ourselves according to circumstances."

**1783** The Commander-in-chief officially thanked Major-General Baron Steuben for his efficient work as inspector-general. To this accomplished and efficient officer must be attributed much of the advancement in military art of the patriotic army.

"His countenance possesses an open benignant look which is a very attractive characteristic; at the same time the dignity of his manners commands the highest respect. But words are wanted to convey to you the idea of a person, whose person and character are the object of such veneration and esteem."

*Archibald Robertson (Scotland).*

## JUNE NINETEENTH.

**1773** Martha Parke Custis, only daughter of Mrs. Washington, died at Mount Vernon, of consumption, at the age of seventeen. Washington was greatly attached to his stepdaughter, and for several years anxiously assisted his wife in the hopeless endeavor to restore her to health. The decided type of this frail young girl had given her the name of the "dark lady."

**1783** The Congressional Committee — Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and Theodore Bland — reported favorably upon Washington's circular letter, and issued it to the governors and presidents of the thirteen colonies. The Society of the Cincinnati held a meeting and chose General Washington, president-general, General McDougal treasurer, and General Knox secretary. Washington held the office during life.

**1786** The mouth of the Mississippi being in possession of foreign powers caused some uneasiness in the country, but Washington said: "Whenever the new states become so populous and so extended to the westward, as really to need it, there will be no power which can deprive them of the use of the Mississippi. Why, then, should we prematurely urge a matter, which may produce disagreeable consequences, if it is our interest to let it sleep?"

"As a didactic writer he can scarcely be esteemed too much; his sentiments have a force and a fascination to restore reason, invigorate patriotism, and awaken piety; his public letters and documents should be engraven on the tablets of the nation."

*John Mason Williams, LL. D. (Massachusetts).*

**JUNE TWENTIETH.**

**1757** Colonel Washington, in commenting upon roads on the frontier, said: "We all know that a blazed path in the eyes of an Indian is a large road, for he does not distinguish, between a track which will admit of carriages, and a road sufficient for them to march in."

**1775** On this day the newly appointed Commander-in-chief, having received his commission, dated June 19th, sent a circular letter to the Independent Companies in Fairfax County, Virginia, which he had helped to raise and drill. His first military act was to review, on the Commons, several militia companies of Philadelphia: "Horse and Foot in all about 2,000." Before leaving Cambridge he purchased and shipped for forty pounds (of Gibbs & Co.) a fire-engine for "Friendships Company," Alexandria, Va., of which organization he was a member.

**1786** General Washington, adhering to a resolution he had adopted, declined to accept the dedication of "a complete system of Arithmetic, by Nicholas Pike," saying, "It gives me the highest satisfaction to find the arts and sciences advancing in any country; but when I find them advancing in America it gives me peculiar pleasure."

"There is something charming to me in the conduct of Washington. A gentleman of one of the finest fortunes upon the Continent, leaving his delicious retirement, his family and friends, sacrificing his ease, and hazarding all in the cause of his country. His views are noble and disinterested. He declared when he accepted the mighty trust, that he would lay before us an exact account of his expenses, and would not accept a shilling for pay."

*John Adams (Massachusetts).*

**JUNE TWENTY-FIRST.**

**1775** The four major-generals Congress appointed to serve under Washington were Artemus Ward, Charles Lee, Philip Schuyler, and Israel Putnam. Eight brigadier-generals were also chosen, with orders to report to the Commander-in-chief at Cambridge. These were Seth Pomeroy, Richard Montgomery, David Wooster, William Heath, Joseph Spencer, John Thomas, John Sullivan, and Nathaniel Greene.

**1778** The army were all day crossing into the Jerseys at Coryells Ferry (forty miles from Valley Forge, and thirty-three miles above Philadelphia). General Lee was in the advance with six brigades. The bad condition of the roads from heavy rains made marching very laborious for the troops. Washington wrote: "As soon as we have cleaned the arms, and can get matters in train we propose moving towards Princeton, in order to avail ourselves of any favorable occasions, that may present themselves of attacking the enemy."

**1788** New Hampshire adopted the Federal Constitution.

"He lives, ever lives, in the hearts of the  
free,  
The wing of his fame spreads across the  
broad sea;  
He lives where the banner of freedom's  
unfurled;  
The pride of his country, the wealth of  
the world."

"His work is done;  
But while the race of mankind endure,  
Let his great example stand  
Colossal seen of every land,  
And keep the soldier firm, the statesman pure,  
Till in all lands, and thro' all human story,  
The path of duty be the way of glory."  
*Tennyson (England).*

## JUNE TWENTY-SECOND.

**1784** The committee appointed by the Legislature of Virginia to determine "what further measures may be necessary for perpetuating the gratitude and veneration of his country to General George Washington" suggested that a statue of Washington, of "the finest marble and best workmanship," be erected. This was unanimously approved, and a committee chosen to wait upon General Washington at Mount Vernon and consult his wishes in regard to said statue. Washington received the committee cordially, several of whom were cherished friends. In regard to the proposed statue he expressed a desire that in it the military should be subordinate to the civil—the general be lost in the citizen.

**1798** The country was greatly excited over the threatened European complications, and all eyes naturally turned to Washington. President Adams wrote urging him to accept the command of "The Provisional Army," saying, "In event of a war with France, your name, if you will in any case permit us to use it, will have more efficacy in it than money or army."

"America seemed safe under his protection. His face was grander than any sculptor had ever wrought in marble. . . . None could behold him without awe and reverence. . . . One of Washington's most invaluable characteristics was the faculty of bringing order out of confusion. The influence of his mind was like light gleaming through an unshaped world. It was this faculty, more than any other, that made him so fit to ride upon the storm of revolution where everything was unfixed and drifting in a troubled sea." *Nathaniel Hawthorne (Massachusetts).*

## JUNE TWENTY-THIRD.

**1775** The Commander-in-chief, having been entertained the previous evening at a farewell supper given at the City Tavern, left Philadelphia for Cambridge, accompanied by General Schuyler, Major Mifflin, and his secretary Joseph Reed. He was escorted by "The Light Horse City Troop," a fine military organization of one hundred men under the command of Captain Markoe.

**1779** General Washington established headquarters at New Windsor, in the handsome house of William Ellison, where he was better situated to attend to different parts of the army on both sides of the Hudson. Some idea can be given of his laborious life during the war by the fact that he established headquarters at nearly two hundred and fifty houses, which in eight years averages about twelve days to a house.

**1797** To Colonel Humphreys President Washington wrote: "The public buildings in the Federal City go on well: one wing of the Capitol (with which Congress might make a very good shift), and the President's House will be covered in this Autumn. An elegant bridge is thrown over the Potomack, at the little falls, and the navigation of the river above will be completed nearly, this season."

"At the close of a century after his inauguration Washington's hold upon the hearts of his countrymen is stronger than ever before. In purity of motive, steadfastness of aim, incorruptible integrity, and lofty patriotism, he is still the model to which we point our youth, the pattern of every statesman, the pride of us all." *Margaret Elizabeth Sangster (New York).*

### JUNE TWENTY-FOURTH.

**1775** The Commander-in-chief on his journey to Cambridge read a letter giving a detailed account of the Battle of Bunker Hill; and when he learned how bravely the raw troops had received the fire of the British regulars, he exclaimed: "The liberties of our country are safe."

**1779** General Washington and family dined with the "American Union Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons," who celebrated the festival of St. John the Baptist, opposite West Point, near the Robinson House, which, until the war, was the home of his former friend Beverly Robinson, Esq. The feast was served in a bower, and a large number of distinguished people were present. Washington, upon retiring, was escorted to his barge by masonic officers, and a band playing "God Save America." Upon this commemorative day five years later he was the honored guest of his own Lodge No. 22, Alexandria, Virginia.

**1782** General Washington from Newburg wrote to the Count de Rochambeau: "I am at this moment on the point of setting out for Albany, on a visit to my posts in the vicinity of that place. My stay will not exceed eight or ten days, and will be shortened if any despatches should be received from you in the meantime."

"So far as I am acquainted with the principles and doctrines of Freemasonry I conceive them to be founded on benevolence, and to be exercised only for the good of mankind."

*George Washington (1798).*

### JUNE TWENTY-FIFTH.

**1775** The Commander-in-chief was met at Jersey City by a committee of the Provincial Congress of New York, and a larger body of citizens than had ever before congregated. His military escort was composed of nine companies of militia. The honors and reception prepared by the Tories for Governor Tryon were given to Washington. Here he issued his first order, which was to General Schuyler to take command of the Department of New York.

**1781** General Washington's journal notes: "Joined the army at its encampment at Peekskill. Mrs. Washington set out at the same time for Virginia." The next morning is found this order: "The Commander-in-chief has the pleasure of announcing to the Army the approach of the troops of his most Christian Majesty under the command of his Excellency Lieutenant General Count de Rochambeau."

**1788** Virginia adopted the Federal Constitution.

**1799** Washington wrote from Mount Vernon to Colonel John Trumbull, then in London: "I question whether the toils arising from the French getting possession of Louisiana and the Floridas would be generally seen, until it is felt, and yet no problem in Euclid is more evident, or susceptible of clearer demonstration. No less difficult is it to make them believe, that offensive operations, oftentimes, are the surest, if not the only means of defence."

"Devoted to peace as he was, he thought with Pliny that war might be necessary, and was neither to be feared or provoked."

*James C. Pickett (Kentucky).*

## JUNE TWENTY-SIXTH.

**1775** The Commander-in-chief, with his escort and a number of gentlemen friends, left New York for Cambridge. He remained all night at New Rochelle, where he was joined in the morning by Major-General Charles Lee. "The Philadelphia Horse" left for home. In reply to an address from the Provincial Congress of New York, Washington significantly said: "When we assumed the soldier we did not lay aside the citizen." "The Congress of Massachusetts Bay passed a resolution, providing for a respectful reception of Generals Washington and Lee. The business was conducted with great simplicity and economy, the entire expense amounting to twenty-eight pounds, five shillings and ten pence."

**1777** Of General Lord Howe's advance with his entire army toward Middlebrook, Washington wrote: "What was the design of this new manoeuvre I know not, whether to attempt our strength — whether to cut off the light Troops which I had advanced towards their lines, or whether finding themselves a little disgraced by their former move, they wanted to flourish off a little at quitting the Jerseys. We followed them with light troops back to their works at Amboy but could not prevent the Desolation they committed."

"I feel myself at times under a strong impulse to *prophecy* that Washington was born for the deliverance of America; that Providence who has raised and trained him up for that very purpose, will shield his head in every day of battle, will give him to see America free, flourishing and happy."

*Hugh Knox, D. D. (1777).*

## JUNE TWENTY-SEVENTH.

**1778** Washington was annoyed by the vacillating conduct of General Charles Lee, who had refused the advance on the 25th, and wished to be reinstated the day following. The command had been given to Lafayette, who received a letter from the Commander-in-chief stating his embarrassment, and he with distinguished courtesy retired in favor of Lee. The officers realizing they were on the eve of an engagement, begged their beloved General not to expose himself as he had done on previous occasions.

**1779** From New Windsor, Washington wrote to the president of Congress: "The Regiments for want of sufficient number of officers, and for want of zeal in the few that remain are dwindling to nothing. Several of these Gentlemen of sentiment and much attached to the service, lately waited upon me to represent their case. They stated their sufferings in terms the most affecting and supported by facts that could not be questioned."

**1782** General Washington received distinguished attention from the civil authorities and the citizens of Albany, N. Y. All the church-bells in the city began to ring at six o'clock, and at sunset thirteen guns were fired. He was presented with the freedom of the city in a box of gold.

"The times in which our country struggled to appear before the world as a nation may not have made George Washington. But when they called for their great man he was there."

*Francis Richard Stockton (Pennsylvania).*



## JUNE TWENTY-EIGHTH.

**1776** General Washington issued the following warning, upon the execution of a member of his body-guard: "The unhappy fate of Thomas Hickey executed this day for Mutiny, Sedition, and Treachery; the General hopes will be a warning to every soldier in the army to avoid those crimes and all others, so disgraceful to the character of a soldier, and pernicious to his country, whose pay he receives and Bread he eats."

**1778** The Battle of Monmouth Court-House was fought. The action began early in the morning; after General Charles Lee had ordered a retreat, Washington rallied the troops and gained a decided victory over Sir Henry Clinton. It was here that the Commander-in-chief, seeing the treachery, or cowardice, of Lee, denounced him in the most terrible manner. "Swore like an Angel from Heaven," said Colonel Henry Lee. To his brother, Washington wrote: "From an unfortunate and bad beginning turned out a glorious and happy day."

**1781** That noble patriot, Robert Morris, sent the army, then encamped on the Hudson, 2,000 barrels of flour. Washington writes, thanking him for his generous and timely assistance, stating in conclusion: "Without that aid we should have been already distressed; and I must confess to you, that I see no prospect of being supplied but through your means."

"His character is a constellation of all the greatest attributes that adorn human nature."  
*Samuel Stanhope Smith, LL. D., President of Princeton.*

## JUNE TWENTY-NINTH.

**1776** The Commander-in-chief notified Congress: "I have just received an express from an officer appointed to keep a look-out on Staten Island, that forty-five ships arrived at the Hook; some say more." On landing, the British appropriated the live stock, but as the inhabitants were mostly Tories, their loss was not a grievance.

**1778** General Washington having remained on the battle-field of Monmouth all night with Lafayette, under blankets, discovered that the British had made a noiseless retreat. He notified Congress of a hard-won victory, and marched his troops to Brunswick, to allow his army time to recuperate. At this battle "Captain Mollie Pitcher" took the place of her wounded husband, Sergeant Hays, and worked his gun with fine effect. Washington complimented her. The Federal Government and the Legislature of Pennsylvania each gave her an annuity, and in 1833 she was buried at Lancaster, Pa., with the honors of war.

**1782** The Commander-in-chief, escorted by General Gansevoort and forty volunteer officers, visited the battle-field of Saratoga. In the afternoon he reviewed the first New Hampshire Regiment, and examined the Block-Houses.

"Though as intrepid as Hannibal and fortunate as Cæsar; yet mildness and humanity were prominent traits in his character: he never pierced a fallen foe. Washington fought not to conquer, but to defend; not to ruin the foe, but to protect his people; not to enslave a country, but to free, to bless, to build up a nation; to establish it on the broad basis of equal rights, under the enjoyment of liberty and under the protection of love."

*Captain Josiah Dunham, 10th U. S. Regulars (1800).*

## JUNE THIRTIETH.

**1775** The Commander-in-chief, on his journey to Cambridge, left the Webb House, Wethersfield, Conn., early in the morning, and reaching Springfield, was met by a committee from the Provisional Congress of Massachusetts Bay, consisting of Dr. Benjamin Church and Moses Gill, by whom he was escorted through Brookfield, Worcester, and Marlborough to Watertown.

**1776** Mrs. Washington left New York this day for Mount Vernon. The General wrote to the president of Congress: "When I had the honor of addressing you yesterday, I had only been informed of the arrival of Forty-five of the fleet in the Morning, since that I have received authentic Intelligence from Sundry persons, among them from Genl Greene, that One hundred and Ten Sail came in before night that were counted, and that more were seen about dusk in the offing."

**1778** General Washington placed General Charles Lee under arrest, having received from him an impertinent letter. Afterward, by the decision of a council of war, he was suspended, "for ordering a retreat at Monmouth and for disrespectful language to the Commander-in-chief."

**1782** Within five miles of Schenectady, N. Y., General Washington was met by a delegation of citizens, who gave expression to the pleasure they felt in his visit. One hundred Oneida and Tuscarora Indians joined in the procession without the gates, armed and gaily hideous in war-paint.

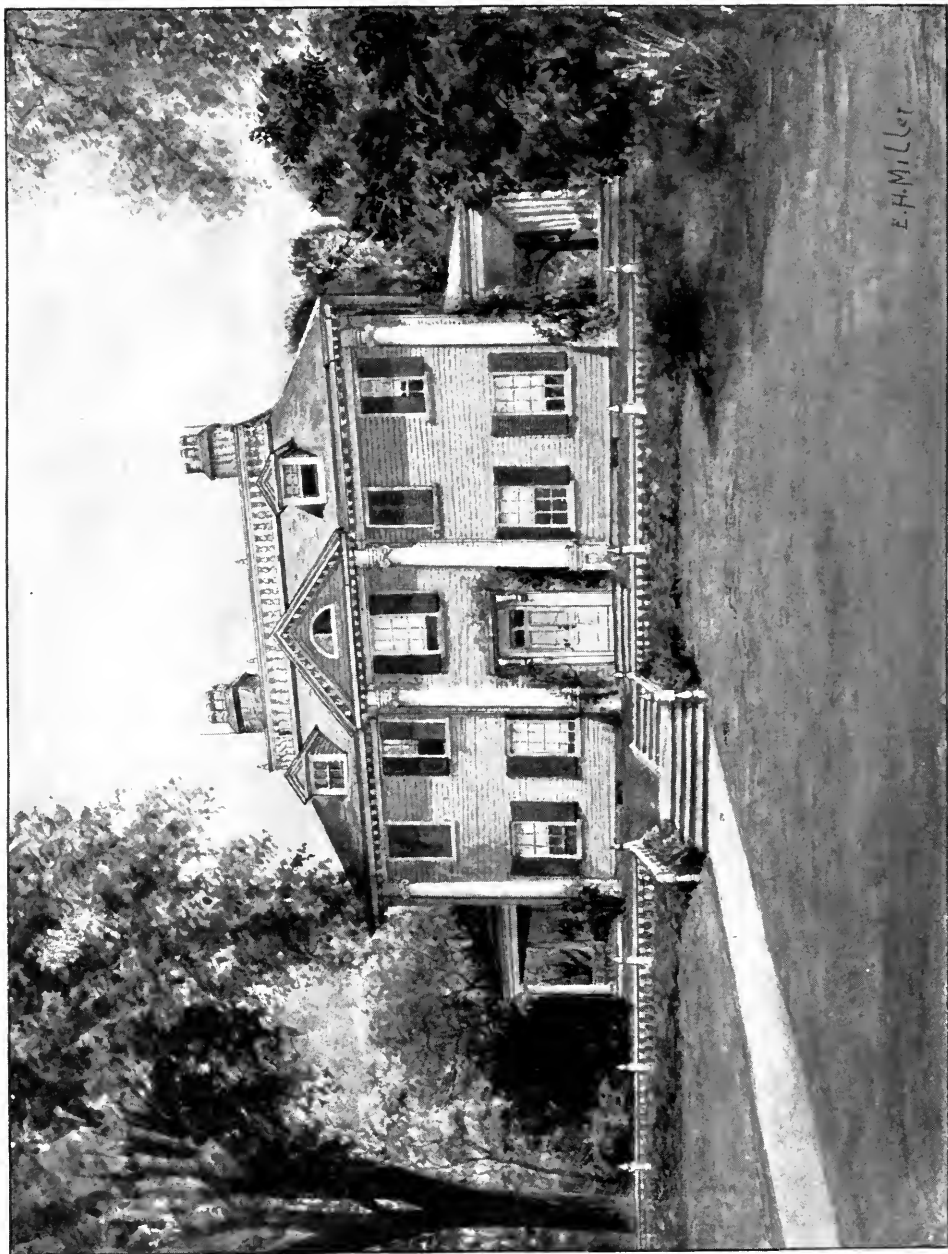
**1785** The following entry in Washington's diary at Mount Vernon justifies his speaking of that place as "a well resorted tavern": "Dined with *only* Mrs. Washington, which I believe is the first instance of it since my retirement from public life."

"A man of unsullied purity of character; a ruler of broad statesmanship and lofty patriotism; a soldier of the highest courage, prudence, and mastery of the art of war; a character always impartial, moderate, temperate, and just: in short, a being adorned with all the virtues, and without any of the foibles of humanity; such is the ideal Washington. If we go to Washington's contemporaries for evidence as to what manner of man he was, the pleasing picture of a faultless character will be largely modified. The great man will appear to us not less great for sharing in the passions and the errors which beset strong natures, but the saintly halo with which the devotees of perfection have crowned him will disappear, and leave us, not a saint, but a man."

*Ainsworth R. Spofford (New Hampshire).*







E. H. Miller

WASHINGTON'S HEADQUARTERS (LONGFELLOW'S HOUSE), CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS, 1775.



## JULY FIRST.

**1755** Colonel Washington, having been detained three weeks by a violent fever at camp Youghiogany, was pronounced convalescent, and, impatient at delay, started with a provision train to join General Braddock. In a letter to his brother he said: "The General gave his word of honor, pledged in the most solemn manner, that I should be brought up before they reached Fort Duquesne."

**1763** Colonel Washington, at Mount Vernon, writes in his diary: "Went over to Stafford Court-House to attend a meeting of the 'Mississippi Adventure,' and lodged there." This was an association of British and Colonial gentlemen interested in exploring and settling the territory beyond the Alleghany Mountains.

**1781** Washington instructed General Lincoln "to make an attempt to surprise the enemy's posts on the North end of York Island." To Governor Clinton he wrote, "In fullest confidence," that in event of success, beacons would be fired as signals for the Governor to place himself at the head of the militia, and with four days' rations march to Kingsbridge.

**1783** This is the last entry in George Washington's account with the United States of the expenditures for eight years—June, 1775,—June, 1783: "July 1—To Mrs. Washington's traveling exp's in coming to & returning from my Winter Quarters per acc't rendered—the money to defray which being taken from my private Purse, & brought with her from Virg.\*, £1064-1-0."

"I see in Washington a great soldier who fought a trying war to a successful end impossible without him; I find in him a marvellous judgment which was never at fault, a penetrating vision which beheld the future of America when it was dim to other eyes, a great intellectual force, a will of iron, an unyielding grasp of facts, and an unequalled strength of patriotic purpose. I see in him too a high-minded gentleman of dauntless courage and stainless honor, simple and stately of manner, kind and generous of heart; such he was in truth. The historian and the biographer may fail to do him justice, but the instinct of mankind will not fail. The real hero needs not books to give him worshippers. George Washington will always receive the love and reverence of men because they see embodied in him the noblest possibilities of humanity. . . . Party newspapers might revile, but the instinct of the people was never at fault.—They loved, trusted and well nigh worshipped Washington living, and they loved, honored, and revered him with an unchanging fidelity since his death, nearly a hundred years. . . . There must have been something very impressive about a man who, with no pretence to the art of an orator and no touch of the charlatan, could so move and affect vast bodies of men."

*Henry Cabot Lodge (Massachusetts).*

## JULY SECOND.

**1775** At Watertown, the Commander-in-chief was received by the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts Bay, in session at that place. His escort was a troop of horse and a number of distinguished gentlemen. This Congress had resolved that the "President's House" (the mansion for the president of Harvard), with the exception of one room for that dignitary, "be taken, cleared, prepared, and furnished" for Washington.

**1778** After the engagement at Monmouth, Washington started for the Hudson. He said: "The march from Englishtown was inconceivably distressing to the troops and horses. The distance is about twenty miles, through a deep sand, without a drop of water except at South river, which is half way."

**1787** "Attended convention. Dined with some of the members of the convention at the 'Indian Queen.' Drank Tea at Mr. Bingham's, and walked afterwards in the State house yard. Set this morning for Mr. Pine who wanted to correct his portrait of me." *Washington's Diary (Philadelphia)*. Two months after this appears in his journal, "In convention all day. Dined at the Presidents (Dr. Franklin) and took tea at Mr. Pines."

"In the curious discussions that are sometimes indulged in as to who in history will live through all time, it has been put down of precious few, but in these speculations I do not think I have ever heard or seen the name of Washington omitted. On the contrary, it seems to be conceded he will not only live as long as history itself does, but his name and fame will grow brighter as the years pass by." *Augustus H. Garland (Arkansas)*.

## JULY THIRD.

**1775** George Washington, of Virginia, at nine o'clock in the morning drew his sword, and by the authority vested in him by the Continental Congress, took command of the American army, at Cambridge, Mass. This momentous event took place on the town common under a large tree, still standing and known as the "Washington Elm."

**1778** "To morrow (July 4th.) the anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, will be celebrated by the firing of a *feu-de-joie* of the whole line. The army will be formed on the Brunswick side of the Raritan, at five o'clock in the afternoon, on the ground pointed out by the Quartermaster-General." *Orderly Book*.

**1798** The Senate of the United States unanimously confirmed the appointment made by President Adams of George Washington as Lieutenant-General and Commander-in-chief of the Provisional army. This occurred on the twenty-third anniversary of Washington's taking command of the Continental army for the establishment of American Independence.

"Nature complimented herself when she created Washington." *Lafayette*.

"Virginia gave us this imperial man,  
Cast in the massive mould  
Of those high-statured ages old  
Which into grander forms our mortal metal ran;  
She gave us this unblemished gentleman —  
What shall we give her back but love and praise?" *Lowell*.

"Washington is to my mind the purest figure in history." *Gladstone*.

## JULY FOURTH.

**1754** Colonel Washington capitulated Fort Necessity, and was permitted by the French commandant to march out with his arms and men. The only pledge required was that for one year he would not erect defenses west of the mountains.

**1775** The Commander-in-chief issued his first order to the troops at Cambridge, in which he "hoped all distinction of Colonies would be laid aside."

**1777** General Washington announced, at Morristown, that this, the first anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, should be celebrated by a *feu-de-joie*, and every soldier should be served with an extra gill of rum.

**1779** The anniversary of the Fourth of July was celebrated at New Windsor, N. Y., by the Commander-in-chief granting pardon to all prisoners under sentence of death.

**1848** The corner-stone of "The National Washington Monument" was laid with civic, military, and masonic ceremonies.

"To Freedom Potomac's proud obelisk towers,  
And Karnak and Baalbec in beauty outvies,  
For Washington's glory its grandeur empowers,  
And Freedmen with joy piled its stones to  
the skies;

"O Symbol of Liberty, matchless, sublime,  
Still soar from the meadows to mate with  
the sun,  
And see thy Republic to uttermost time,  
The noble, the peerless, the Many in  
One!"

*Edna Dean Proctor (New Hampshire).*

## JULY FIFTH.

**1775** The Commander-in-chief having inspected the forts in the vicinity of Roxbury, and other points, expressed surprise and pleasure at the character of these defenses. He was given admirable drawings of the several positions occupied by the British, made by young John Trumbull, who had been a student at Harvard at the time these fortifications were being constructed. "The General most earnestly recommends & requires of all the Officers, that they be exceeding diligent and strict in preventing all Invasions and Abuse of private property in their quarters or elsewhere; that it is unmanly and sully's the dignity of the great cause, in which we are all engaged, to violate that property he is called to protect, thus to add to the Distresses of those of their countrymen, who are suffering under the Iron hand of oppression." *Orderly Book.*

**1781** General Washington visited the French army at North Castle, and was welcomed with great enthusiasm. To Count de Rochambeau he complimented Duc de Lauzun upon the rapid forced march on the 1st of that nobleman's command, the brilliant "Lauzun Legion," when ordered to support General Lincoln's intended attack on Forts Knyphausen, Tryon, and George, on York Island.

"This is not the moment to retrace in this Hall all that great man has done for the freedom of America; the number and importance of his warlike exploits; the generous inspiration with which he animated the French who fought under him, and the sublime act by which he did eternal honor to his memory; when, after having contributed to give freedom to his country, he laid down all authority—the supreme power—to hide his glory in the obscurity of private life."

*Felix Faulcon (France, 1800).*

## JULY SIXTH.

**1775** The Colonial Congress, in the name of the United Colonies, proclaimed a declaration of war against Great Britain. Congress also adopted a resolution to levy supplies and provide men and money to meet the demands of the Commander-in-chief in the prosecution of this contest.

**1780** Washington wrote from Preakness to his brother-in-law, Fielding Lewis: "We neglected to obtain soldiers for the war when zeal and patriotism run high, and men were eager to engage for a trifle; the consequence is we have protracted the war, and expended tens of millions of pounds which might have been saved, and have a new army to discipline once or twice a year."

**1791** President Washington returned to Philadelphia from his Southern tour, including a few days' repose at Mount Vernon. He was not only happy in the affectionate welcome he everywhere received, but most gratified by the patriotic zeal manifested among all classes. This was the longest absence during the eight years of his service as Chief Magistrate, he having been over three months away from the seat of government.

"If Washington were now living in the United States, he would find the political atmosphere offensive and the political morality intolerable; that he would be so far superior to the motives and influences which prevail in the administration of the government as to be virtually isolated; that he would steadily refuse to give pledges of party allegiance, or in any way to prostitute public trusts to private advantage, and least of all would reward corruption in elections with promotions or honors; that he would hold unscrupulous and impertinent party 'Bosses.'"

*Frederick D. Huntington, Bishop of New York.*

## JULY SEVENTH.

**1775** "The General has great reason; and is highly displeased with the Negligence and Inattention of those Officers, who have placed as Centries, at the out-posts, men with whose Characters they are not acquainted. He therefore orders, that for the future, no Man shall be appointed to those important Stations, who is not a Native of this Country, or has a wife or family in it to whom he is known to be attached." *Orderly Book (Cambridge).*

**1778** The Congress in session at Yorktown, Pa., gave a vote of thanks to General Washington "for gaining the important victory at Monmouth." His old and faithful friend, Hon. Henry Laurens, president of Congress, wrote him: "Love and respect for your Excellency are impressed on the heart of every grateful American, and your name will be revered by posterity."

**1798** President Adams informed ex-President Washington that he had "sent the Secretary of War, Hon. James McHenry, to Mount Vernon to present his commission as "Lieutenant-General and Commander-in-chief of the Provisional Army," and regretted that he could not personally have had the pleasure of presenting it." It would have been a grateful task for the pen of history to have recorded such a visit.

"In all his life's history Washington was a patriot and a lover of his country, but a lover of it through its union, its permanence, its strength. Washington's character and fame will never be disowned or dishonored by any part of this or any other nation. Other nations claim a share in the honor which shines on all the people of the world."

*William Maxwell Evarts (New York).*



**JULY EIGHTH.**

**1755** Colonel Washington, in a covered wagon, overtook General Braddock on the eve of the memorable Monongahela engagement. Of his own condition he said: "On the 9th I attended him on horseback tho' very weak and low."

**1775** The British advance-guard was routed and driven back from its approach on Roxbury. This was the first engagement after Washington took command, and he was much gratified by the bearing of the militia. The first council of war was held the following morning, "in which it was unanimously determined to defend the posts as occupied, and that measures ought to be immediately taken to increase the army by recruits."

**1786** Washington having determined to recall the Minister to France, Secretary James Madison, offered the mission to Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, saying, "Policy requires that this character should be well attached to the government of his own country and not obnoxious to the one to which he is sent to be essentially serviceable. Where then can a man be found that would answer this description better than yourself?"

"He was one who seemed to have been expressly formed by Providence for the mighty work of establishing the independence of a people, which may one day delight the philanthropist with the view of as great an assemblage of freemen, as Europe now contains of slaves. . . . No one ever passed through the ordeal of power and influence more free from the remotest suspicion of selfish and ambitious designs."

*British Register (1800).*

**JULY NINTH.**

**1755** The Battle of Monongahela was fought. This engagement began early in the morning with an ambush attack from the Indians. General Braddock having fallen, and all superior officers being either killed or disabled, Colonel Washington received the order for retreat from the wounded commander, and was able to execute this order by using his sturdy frontiersmen to protect the thin ranks of the regulars. Washington had two horses killed under him, and his escape seemed little less than miraculous.

**1776** The Commander-in-chief ordered "The Flag of the United Colonies," the emblem first raised at Prospect Hill, to be raised on the ramparts at New York, and the Declaration of Independence to be read at sunset to each brigade. The General said: "The Continental Congress, impelled by the dictates of duty, policy and necessity, have pleased to dissolve the connection which subsisted between this country and Great Britain, and declare the United Colonies of North America Free and Independent."

**1799** Washington signed and dated his will at Mount Vernon, which document is preserved in a glass case at Fairfax Court-House, Va. To five of his nephews he left his swords, saying, "These swords are accompanied with an injunction not to unsheath them for the purpose of shedding blood, except it be in self defense or in the defense of their country and its rights, and in the latter case to keep them unsheathed, and prefer falling with them in their hands to the relinquishment thereof."

"If virtue can secure happiness in another world, he is happy. In this, the seal is now put upon his glory. It is no longer in jeopardy from the fickleness of fortune."

*Alexander Hamilton (New York).*

## JULY TENTH.

**1776** After the reading of the Declaration of Independence, the excited soldiers tore down the statue of George III., corner of Greene Street and Broadway, New York. This occurrence the Commander-in-chief made the subject of a special order: "Though the General does not doubt those who pulled down and mutilated the statue on Broadway last night were actuated by zeal in the public cause, yet it has so much the appearance of a riot and want of order in the army, that he disapproves the manner, and directs that in the future these things shall be avoided by the soldiery and left to be executed by the proper authorities."

**1783** General Washington wrote from Newburg to his lifelong friend, George William Fairfax, in London, on the happy termination of the Revolution, saying, "Which I can truly aver was not in the beginning premeditated; but the result of dire necessity brought about by the persecuting spirit of the British Government."

**1787** Washington, a daily witness of the terrible sectional contest raging in the old hall, in a most discouraged mood expressed his fears to Hamilton regarding the probable results of the Constitutional Convention, saying, "I almost despair of seeing a favorable issue to the proceedings of our convention, and do therefore repent having any agency in the business."

"Like the resurrection angel, Washington rolled back the stone from the sepulchre of reason, dissolved the ceremonies of slavery, and led forth America to sovereignty and independence."  
*Joseph Story (Massachusetts).*

## JULY ELEVENTH.

**1776** The Commander-in-chief informed General Schuyler that "General Howe's fleet from Halifax has arrived, in number about one hundred and thirty sail. His army is between nine and ten thousand, being joined by some of the regiments from the West Indies, and having fallen in with part of the Highland troops in his passage. He has landed his men on Staten Island, which they mean to secure, and is in daily expectation of the arrival of Lord Howe with one hundred and fifty ships with a large and powerful reinforcement."

**1777** General Washington cautiously moved his army from Morristown in the direction of North River, anxiously watching General Howe's movements; his purpose was to prevent Howe from coöperating with Burgoyne. He had just received the depressing news of General St. Clair's evacuation of Ticonderoga and Fort Independence, and of the disastrous engagement at Hubbardton.

**1779** The Commander-in-chief ordered General Parsons to report the number of houses destroyed by the British in an expedition up the Sound, which investigation showed a destruction of nearly five hundred buildings in the towns of Fairfield and Norwalk, necessarily involving an immense amount of suffering, and intensified bitterness against the mother-country.

"Whilst I do not begrudge America the inheritance of his fame, I cannot allow America a monopoly of his renown. George Washington belongs to patriotism, to civilization, and to heroism all the world over. He was a child of the larger history, not a mere unit in the development of a single nation."  
*Joseph Parker, D. D. (England).*

**JULY TWELFTH.**

**1778** From Paramus, N. J., Washington acknowledged to Congress the honor conferred by the following resolution: "That the thanks of Congress be given to General Washington for the activity with which he marched from the Camp at Valley Forge in pursuit of the enemy; for his distinguished exertions in forming the line of battle; and for his great good conduct in leading on the attack and gaining the important victory at Monmouth over the British Grand Army under the command of General Sir H. Clinton, in their march from Philadelphia to New York."

**1782** Washington left Newburg for Philadelphia to meet Rochambeau. To Colonel Laurens he had sent a pen-picture of the situation: "Sir Guy Carleton is using every art to soothe and lull our people into a state of security. Admiral Digby is capturing all our vessels, and suffocating all our seamen, who will not enlist into their service, as fast as possible, in Prison Ships; and Haldimand (with his savage allies), is scalping and burning the frontiers."

**1798** James McHenry, Secretary of War, having reached Mount Vernon the previous evening with the commission of "Lieutenant-General and Commander-in-chief of the Provisional Army," had the pleasure this day of writing to President Adams the conditional acceptance of the office by General Washington.

"Nature hath culled the best of Greece and Rome,  
And moulding all their virtues into one  
Gave to the infant world—a Washington."

*Martin Farquhar Tupper (England).*

**JULY THIRTEENTH.**

**1755** General Braddock expired in the evening, and at night, by torch-light, Colonel Washington read the "Burial Office" over his late commander. A wagon-road was made above the grave of the unfortunate officer, that the spot might not be discovered by desecrating Indians. His military training and experience unfitted him for savage warfare, and here in the wilderness the gallant soldier, the elegant gentleman, the generous heart was left at rest—while the world has been slow to do justice to his memory.

**1776** To the Secret Committee of New York, Washington urged, "The necessity of falling upon some measures to remove from the city and its environs persons of known disaffection and enmity to the cause of America. A suspicion that there are Ministerial agents among us, would justly alarm soldiers of more experience and discipline than ours."

**1798** General Washington inclosed to Colonel Alexander Hamilton a list of "Characters fit and proper to be employed" in the Provisional army, Hamilton's name heading the list, with the rank of Major-General. He added: "I have consented to embark once more on the boundless ocean of trouble and responsibility."

"It is a satisfaction to reflect that when the demands of demoralized partisans poured in, that he should return to the political arena and lead them against his old comrades, the great man lay dead amid the garden where all the sunshine of his life was dialed in flowers and fruits and loving hearts."

*Moncure D. Conway (Virginia).*

**JULY FOURTEENTH.**

**1758** Washington wrote Colonel Bouquet: "It gives me great pleasure to find you approve of the Indian dress I have put my men into. Caprice and whim had no share in causing of it; — 't is evident, I think, that soldiers in such a dress are better able to carry their provisions, are fitter for the active service we are engaged in, and less liable to sink under the fatigues of a long march."

**1775** "It is recommended both to Officers and Men to make themselves acquainted with the persons of all the Officers in General Command, and in the meantime, to prevent mistakes; the General Officers and their Aides de Camp will be distinguished in the following manner. The Commander-in-chief by a light blue Ribband, worn across his breast, between his Coat and Waistcoat. The Majors and Brigadier Generals by a pink Ribband, worn in the like manner. The Aide de Camp by a green Ribband." *Orderly Book (Cambridge).*

**1778** General Washington wrote a letter of welcome to Count d'Estaing upon his arrival at Sandy Hook with a fleet and four thousand men, sent through the immediate influence of Marie Antoinette, by "his most Christian Majesty, our great ally." He immediately suggested to that officer the intercepting of a provision fleet which had sailed from Cork with supplies for the British army.

"How shall we rank thee upon Glory's page?  
Thou more than soldier and just less than sage."

*Thomas Moore (Ireland).*

**JULY FIFTEENTH.**

**1761** Colonel Washington was convalescing, having been extremely low with fever at Mount Vernon, and his condition pronounced so critical that there was at one time little hope entertained of his life. Frequent and severe attacks of illness were the result of long and continued exposure in his years of frontier service.

**1772** "Went up in the afternoon with Mrs. Washington, Mr. J. P. Custis, Miss Custis and Miss Posey to a Ball in Alexandria, and lodged in my house in town." *Washington's Diary.*

**1784** At Mount Vernon, Washington replied to the address from the Assembly of Virginia sent by a committee of that body, in regard to erecting a monument to his honor, saying, "Nothing can add more to the pleasure, which arises from a conscious discharge of public trust, than the approbation of one's country. To have been so happy, under a vicissitude of fortune, amidst the difficult and trying scenes of an arduous conflict, as to meet this, is, in my mind, to have attained the highest honor; and the consideration of it in my present peaceful retirement will heighten all my domestic joys, and constitute my greatest felicity."

"The endearing charm of his character arises from the fact that, without possessing mental qualifications of extraordinary force or brilliancy, he habitually used the whole of what mind he had in discovering the right course. He had a genius for rectitude. There, indeed, he was extraordinary; perhaps unique among public men."

*James Parton (Missouri).*

**JULY SIXTEENTH.**

**1780** General Washington acknowledged the Count de Rochambeau's despatches; also the flattering personal opinion of Louis the XVI.; and "as a citizen of the United States, and as a soldier in the cause of liberty," gave a hearty welcome to the French general and the forces under him. Two days previous he had transmitted to the president of Congress, Samuel Huntington, the glorious news of the arrival of the French army on the tenth. He sent General Lafayette with a plan of operations for Count de Rochambeau and Chevalier de Ternay, and out of compliment to the allied army, requested that black-and-white cockades be adopted by the Continental troops.

**1782** Washington and Rochambeau, having met by appointment in Philadelphia, agreed that the French army should leave Williamsburg, Va., and join the American forces on the Hudson. The previous evening the generals had attended the great fête given by the Marquis de la Luzerne, on the Dauphin's birthday, of which Dr. Rush wrote his wife: "There were Washington, Rochambeau, Morris, Paine, Duane, Rush, Indians, Quakers, in fact the world."

**1790** President Washington approved a bill locating a District of Territory, "not exceeding ten miles square, on the banks of the Potomac river, between the mouth of the Eastern Branch and the Conococheague for a permanent seat of Government."

"The name and deeds of Washington will live so long as liberty has a votary, or freedom a friend."

*Hannibal Hamlin (Maine).*

**JULY SEVENTEENTH.**

**1776** In pursuance of a military order, the Declaration of Independence was read in front of Faneuil Hall, Boston. The Commander-in-chief wrote General Sullivan, urging him to continue in the army, and deploring the growing spirit of jealousy among officers. Washington notified Congress that under a flag of truce General Howe had, on the fourteenth, sent him a letter addressed to "George Washington, Esq.," which he refused to receive. Upon it being presented to him, Washington said: "Sir, this letter is for a planter in Virginia." This action was indorsed by Congress. Adjutant-General Patterson bore a second letter from General Howe addressed to "George Washington, Esq.," but that officer was so impressed with Washington's dignity that he did not offer to deliver it.

**1781** The Commander-in-chief arranged to cross North River with Generals Rochambeau, de Beville, Duportail, and other French officers to reconnoiter the British position at the north end of York Island, contemplating a second attack on the enemy's works at that point. Their escort was one hundred and fifty men of the Jersey troops.

"Born to high destinies, he was fashioned for them by the hand of nature. His form was noble. His port majestic. On his front was enthroned those virtues, which exalt, and those graces which adorn the human character. . . . He had every title at command, but his first victory was over himself. To each desire he had taught the lesson of moderation. Prudence therefore became the companion of his life."

*Gouverneur Morris (New York).*

## JULY EIGHTEENTH.

**1755** Colonel Washington wrote Governor Dinwiddie the details of Braddock's defeat, saying, "The dastardly behavior of the Regular troops (so called), exposed those who were inclined to do their duty to almost certain death." From Governor Innes he had requested better accommodations, and transportation, for Colonel Burton, Captain Orme, and Captain Roger Morris. He added: "I doubt not but you have had an account of the poor General's death by some of the affrighted wagoners who ran off without taking leave."

**1774** At Alexandria, Colonel Washington presided over and was chief promoter of the famous meeting of the "Freeholders of Fairfax County," considered one of the most important initiatory movements of the approaching contest. Here resolutions embodying the sentiments of the Declaration of Independence were adopted. Washington was chosen delegate to present the same at Williamsburg, August the first, reminding the world — "The Colony of Virginia is not a conquered country, and not the descendants of the conquered, but of conquerors."

**1775** "The General hears with astonishment the very frequent applications, that are made to him, as well by Officers as Soldiers for Furloughs. Brave men who are engaged in the noble Cause of Liberty; should never think of removing from their Camp, while the Enemy is in sight." *Orderly Book (Cambridge).*

"Ambuscade was a favorite device in Indian warfare. It was in such a conflict that Braddock fell, and the young Washington won his first laurels." *William Dorsheimer (New York).*

## JULY NINETEENTH.

**1743** George Washington attended the marriage of his half-brother Lawrence, to Annie, daughter of William Fairfax, Esq., of Belvoir. This seat, nearly opposite Mount Vernon, was one of the most elegant on the Potomac, and noted for its generous hospitality. Soon after the beginning of the Revolution the mansion was destroyed by fire.

**1758** Colonel Washington wrote from Fort Cumberland thanking Colonel Bouquet for leave to attend the election for the House of Burgesses at Winchester, but declining the privilege. He was a candidate for the seat, and in his absence Colonel James Ward, the founder of the place, represented him, and wrote him: "I was carried round the town in the midst of a general applause and huzza for Colonel Washington."

**1782** Ten French officers whose regiment was halting at Colchester, Va., were invited by Mrs. Washington to dine at Mount Vernon. Count de Custine, in command, sent her that morning an elegant set of French China, the production of his own factory at Pfalzburg, Lorraine, and ornamented with the initials and coat of arms of her husband. Pieces of this china are in the National Museum, Washington, D. C.

"Blest with the most commanding figure, a dignity which forcibly impressed all beholders, a complacency of manners, a mind highly cultivated and stored with knowledge, and a military fame so honorably acquired; he seemed formed by nature for great and glorious deeds, and pointed out by the hand of Deity,—to America, as the revolutionary chief."

*Gunning Bedford (Delaware).*

## JULY TWENTIETH.

**1758** The only known letter to his *fiancée* Washington wrote from Fort Cumberland:

"We have begun our march for the Ohio. A courier is starting for Williamsburg, and I embrace the opportunity to send a few words to one whose life is now inseparable from mine. Since that happy hour when we made our pledges to each other, my thoughts have been continually going to you as to another self. That an All Powerful Providence may keep us both in safety is the prayer of your ever faithful & Ever affectionate Friend,

"To MARTHA CUSTIS.

G<sup>o</sup>. WASHINGTON."

**1775** "The General orders this day to be religiously observed by the Forces under his Command, exactly in manner directed by the Continental Congress. It is therefore strictly enjoined on all Officers and Soldiers, to attend Divine Service; and it is expected, that all those who go to worship, do take their Arms, Ammunition and Accoutrements, & are prepared for immediate action if called upon." *Orderly Book (Cambridge).*

**1780** "The Commander-in-chief has the pleasure to congratulate the army on the arrival of a large land and naval armament at Rhode Island, sent by his Most Christian Majesty, the King of France, to co-operate with the troops of these states against the common enemy, accompanied with every circumstance that can render it honorable and useful."

"No nobler figure ever stood in the fore front of a nation's life."

*John Richard Green, LL. D. (England).*

## JULY TWENTY-FIRST.

**1775** The Commander-in-chief ordered the removal of Harvard students to Concord, a less exposed point, and took possession of the buildings. He had the news of Sullivan's brilliant victory on Long Island read in camp. From John Hancock, Washington received a letter asking for service; that devoted patriot said: "If it be to take the firelock and join the army as a volunteer." He was animated by the same spirit as the bra' Scot at Williamsburg the previous year who called out: "Hugh Mercer will serve his adopted country and the cause of Liberty in any rank or station in which he may be appointed."

**1779** General Washington established his headquarters near West Point, at the residence of John Moore (a merchant of New York). At this post he remained for four months. During this period the strong works were constructed; twenty-five hundred men were often daily on fatigue duty. The right wing of the army was under Putnam, the left under Heath, and the garrison commanded by McDougal.

**1791** To David Humphreys the President wrote: "I cannot see much prospect of living in tranquility with the Indians, so long as the spirit of land jobbing prevails, and our frontier settlers entertain the opinion, that there is not the same crime in killing an Indian, as in killing a white man."

"He was one of those rare specimens of humanity in whom nearly all the mental organs are largely developed, and in harmonious proportions. Such a combination produces a character distinguished for mental power in all directions."

*George Combe (England).*

## JULY TWENTY-SECOND.

**1749** George Washington, aged seventeen years and five months, was appointed Surveyor of Culpeper County, Va., receiving the commission upon certificates from the president and masters of William and Mary College. In his first official signature, "Washington, S. C. C.," made this day, he doubtless experienced a true boy's appreciation of its importance, and more conscious gratification than later he felt in placing his name on the most important military order or state document.

**1775** The Commander-in-chief made three divisions of his troops, placing Major-General Artemus Ward, at Roxbury, in command of the right; Major-General Charles Lee, Winter and Prospect Hills, the left; and Major-General Israel Putnam, Cambridge, the center.

**1782** General Washington in Philadelphia wrote to Mrs. Richard Stockton, *née* Annis Boudinot: "Your favor of the 17th conveying to me your 'Pastoral' on the subject of Lord Cornwallis' capture has given me great satisfaction. I have only to lament that the hero of your 'Pastoral' is not more deserving of your pen; but the circumstances will be placed among the happy events of my life."

"History records many names that dazzle the imagination with a greater brilliancy, but few, indeed, that shine with so pure a light, steady, permanent, penetrating and serene. Washington's character and reputation, as contrasted with many other famous men, seem to resemble in effect the Doric architecture as compared with Gothic and Oriental styles."

*Richard Hildreth (Massachusetts).*

## JULY TWENTY-THIRD.

**1775** General Washington wrote General John Thomas urging him not to resign: "I admit, that your just claims and services have not had due respect.—Worthy men of all nations and countrys have had reasons to make the same complaint, but they did not for this abandon the public cause, they nobly stifled the dictates of resentment, and made their enemy's ashamed of their injustice. For the sake of your bleeding country, your devoted Province, your charter rights, I conjure you to banish from your mind every suggestion of anger and disappointment; your country will do ample justice to your merits."

**1776** The following gratifying resolution was unanimously approved: *Resolved*, "That General Washington be informed that Congress have such an entire confidence in his judgement, that they will give him no particular directions about the disposition of the troops, but desire that he will dispose of those at New York, the Flying Camp, and Ticonderoga as to him shall seem most conducive to the public good."

**1796** The British minister, Robert Liston, with his wife, and the Hon. Henry Murray Stuart, second son of the Earl of Bute, were on a visit of several days to President and Mrs. Washington at Mount Vernon.

"Brave Washington arrives,  
Arrayed in warlike fame,  
While in his soul revives

"Great Marlboro's martial flame  
To lead your conquering armies on  
To lasting glory and renown."  
*Song (New York, 1776).*



**JULY TWENTY-FOURTH.**

**1758** Colonel George Washington, on hearing of his election to the House of Burgesses, wrote Colonel James Wood: "I am extremely thankful to you and my other friends for entertaining the Freeholders in my name. I hope no Exception was taken to any that voted against me, but all were alike treated and all had enough. It is what I much desired. My only fear is that you spent with too sparing a hand."

**1777** The Commander-in-chief having left Galloway's old log-house, where he had "lodged in a bed and his military family on the floor about him," established his headquarters at Ramapo. He received an intercepted letter from Howe to Burgoyne announcing his intention of sailing eastward. This convinced Washington that the objective point was Philadelphia, in which he was not mistaken. To this place he immediately ordered two divisions, and the entire army followed at once.

**1778** To Henry Laurens, Washington wrote: "It is very pleasing to hear that prizes are already finding their way into the Delaware. The event seems the more agreeable, as that navigation, but yesterday as it were, could scarcely contain the enemy's fleet and their numerous captures which were constantly crowding in. Happy change."

"I must confess that but few men of humanity can lay claim to such a cult as George Washington, the intellectual and moral Christopher Columbus of Saint Liberty. Of course he was greater than Napoleon I., much more amiable than Cromwell, and realized at the utmost that which old Greece used to call *Kalokagathos* — kind-hearted." *Hans Von Bulow (Saxony).*

**JULY TWENTY-FIFTH.**

**1758** Colonel Washington wrote his superior officer, Colonel Bouquet: "I shall most cheerfully work on any road, pursue any route; or enter upon any service, that the General or yourself may think me usefully employed in, or qualified for; and shall never have a will of my own when a Duty is required of me."

**1782** General Washington, accompanied by Colonel Trumbull and Major Walker, passed two days at the "Sun Inn," in the Moravian village of Bethlehem. He attended their services, listened to a sermon from brother Ettwein, and took this occasion to express his obligations for their kindness in nursing his wounded, especially to the good sister who had nursed his dear friend Lafayette.

**1788** Washington, from Mount Vernon, wrote to Mathew Carey, approving of "The Museum," and giving his opinion in regard to the benefits of such publications. "For myself I have a high idea of the utility of periodical publications, in so much that I could heartily desire copies of the 'Museums,' and magazines, as well as common gazettes, might be spread through every city, town and village in America; and I consider such easy vehicles of knowledge more happily calculated than any other to preserve the liberty, stimulate the industry and meliorate the morals of an enlightened and free people."

"Washington was too far seeing as a statesman not to perceive that true liberty must rest on the basis of popular education." *Annie Alido Abrahams (New York).*

## JULY TWENTY-SIXTH.

**1752** Major Lawrence Washington died at Mount Vernon, the plantation inherited from his father. He was in His Britannic Majesty's service, and in 1743 built and named his home on the Potomac after his superior officer Admiral Vernon. His only surviving child, a delicate infant daughter, lived but a few months; this estate, by his will, then descended to his half-brother George.

**1755** Colonel Washington reached Mount Vernon from the Braddock campaign. From Fort Cumberland to his brother John Augustine, he wrote: "I have heard a circumstantial account of my death and dying speech. I take this early opportunity of contradicting the first, and assuring you that I have not as yet composed the latter."

**1775** The Commander-in-chief most heartily welcomed to Cambridge several companies of Virginia sharp-shooters under Colonel Thompson. Captain Daniel Morgan was commander of one company. These troops had marched six hundred miles through the wilderness, in twenty-eight days. The men wore the frontier costumes of undressed buckskin with coonskin caps and capes, the style which is recognized as "*à la Daniel Boone*."

**1788** The State of New York adopted the Federal Constitution.

"Many as are the heroic traits and lovable characteristics of the immortal Washington, none is so worthy of unbounded praise as his firm and unswerving devotion to public duty, his urbane bearing and kindly consideration towards those whom rank had placed beneath him; his modesty of personal demeanor, and, last and greatest of all, that grand republican spirit which made him spurn the thought of personal dictatorship or crowned royalty."

*Hugo Muench, President North American Turnerbund.*

## JULY TWENTY-SEVENTH.

**1775** General Washington wrote his brother: "I found the enemy in possession of a place called Bunker's Hill, strongly intrenched and fortifying themselves. I found part of our army on two hills, called Winter and Prospect Hills, about a mile and a quarter from the enemy in a very insecure state. I found another part of the army at Cambridge, and a third part at Roxbury guarding the entrance in and out of Boston."

**1780** From Preakness, the Commander-in-chief informed Lafayette, "Mr. Clinton still continues to threaten your countrymen with a combined attack. I have put the troops here under marching orders, and I have ordered those at West Point to King's Ferry. If Clinton moves in force to Rhode Island, we may possibly be able to take advantage of it."

**1789** This day Congress created the department of foreign affairs; the name was changed on September 15th to the Department of State. The President, in declining to give his nephew Bushrod Washington an office, wrote, in addition to other reasons: "My political conduct in nominations, even if I were uninfluenced by principles must be exceedingly circumspect and proof against just criticism; for no slip will pass unnoticed that can be improved into a supposed partiality for friends, or relations."

"In modern times, Washington, I believe, was the greatest man, and next to him, William the Third."

*Sir Henry Grattan (England).*

### JULY TWENTY-EIGHTH.

**1775** The Commander-in-chief, from Cambridge, confided to Major-General Schnyler, that, "Confusion and disorder reigned in every department, which, in a little time, must have ended either in the separation of the army or fatal contests with one another. The better genius of America has prevailed, and most happily the Ministerial troops have not availed themselves of their advantages, till I trust the opportunity has in a great measure passed over."

**1791** To Gouverneur Morris the President said: "In my late tour through the southern states, I experienced great satisfaction in seeing the good effects of the general government in that part of the Union. The farmer, the merchant, and the mechanic have seen their several interests attended to, and they unite in placing confidence in their representatives. Industry has there taken place of idleness, and economy of dissipation."

**1795** The President, from Mount Vernon, replied to the protest of the "Selectmen of Boston," against the ratification of the Jay Treaty with Great Britain. After expressing appreciation of their views, and thanking them for their confidence, he with dignity declared his determination, adding: "The Constitution is the guide which I can never abandon."

"Attachment to you as well as to my country urges me to pray that you will not leave the work unfinished. Remain with us at least while the storm lasts, and until you can retire like the sun in a calm unclouded evening. May every blessing here and hereafter attend you."

*John Jay, Chief Justice U. S. Supreme Court (1796).*

### JULY TWENTY-NINTH.

**1757** Colonel Washington, in his instructions to all the captains of companies, said: "Discipline is the soul of an army. It makes small numbers formidable; procures success to the weak, and esteem to all; and may in a peculiar manner to us, who are in the way to be joined to Regulars in a very short time, and of distinguishing thro' this means, from other Provincials."

**1780** The Commander-in-chief continued to make every apparent preparation to attack New York. He ordered his troops to march from Preakness to Paramus, which in the extreme heat greatly overcame them. His purpose was to prevent General Clinton from moving on the Allies at Newport, for which expedition some of the British troops had already embarked. These manœuvres were successful, and caused the British general, much to the relief of the Continentals, and the amusement of European spectators, to countermand his orders and retain his army in New York.

**1781** General Washington divulged to Lafayette, who was in command in Virginia, the reason of the movement of the two armies about New York, which was to induce the enemy to recall their troops from the South. "Our views must now be turned towards endeavoring to expel them totally from those states, if we find ourselves incompetent for the siege of New York."

"The fame of Washington is enshrined in the existence and grows with the growth of your great republic."  
*Sir Frederick Leighton (England).*

## JULY THIRTIETH.

**1775** Colonel Joseph Trumbull, whom the Commander-in-chief had placed on his staff three days before, was made commissary-general. He appointed William Tudor, Esq., first judge advocate of the army, and ordered that he be so recognized and obeyed. Washington wrote to his brother Samuel that, in regard to the British success at Bunker Hill, "a few more such victories will destroy their army and put an end to the present contest."

**1777** The Commander-in-chief crossed the Delaware River, marching on Philadelphia. At Coryell's Ferry, N. J., he halted the army, expecting advices of the British fleet entering Delaware Bay. To General Gates he wrote: "General Howe in a manner abandoning General Burgoyne is so unaccountable a matter; that, 'till I am fully assured it is so, I cannot help casting my Eyes continually behind me."

**1779** At West Point, Washington, in writing to General Wayne, expressed his belief in the information received of the sailing of Admiral Arbuthnot from Torbay, with seven thousand Hessian and British troops. He also announced the arrival from England of Lord Cornwallis, who had been absent six months, on account of the illness and death of his wife; he held this British general in high esteem as an officer and a man.

<p>"Long as the everlasting hills endure, Long as old Ocean beats the rock-bound shore, Long as the planets by the Sun are drawn,</p>	<p>"Long as that Orb creates Aurora's dawn, Long as the constellations gem the sky, Thy name, Great Washington, will never die."</p>
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*William Williams, Signer of the Declaration of Independence (Connecticut).*

## JULY THIRTY-FIRST.

**1776** Washington informed Congress that he was engaged in the construction of a "Fire ship." He suggested that the uniform for a portion of the army be "Hunting shirts with long Breeches made of the same cloth, and Gaiter fashion about the Legs," and said: "No dress can be had cheaper or more convenient, as the wearer may be cool in warm weather. Besides which; it is a dress which is justly supposed to carry no small terror to the enemy, who think every such person a complete marksman."

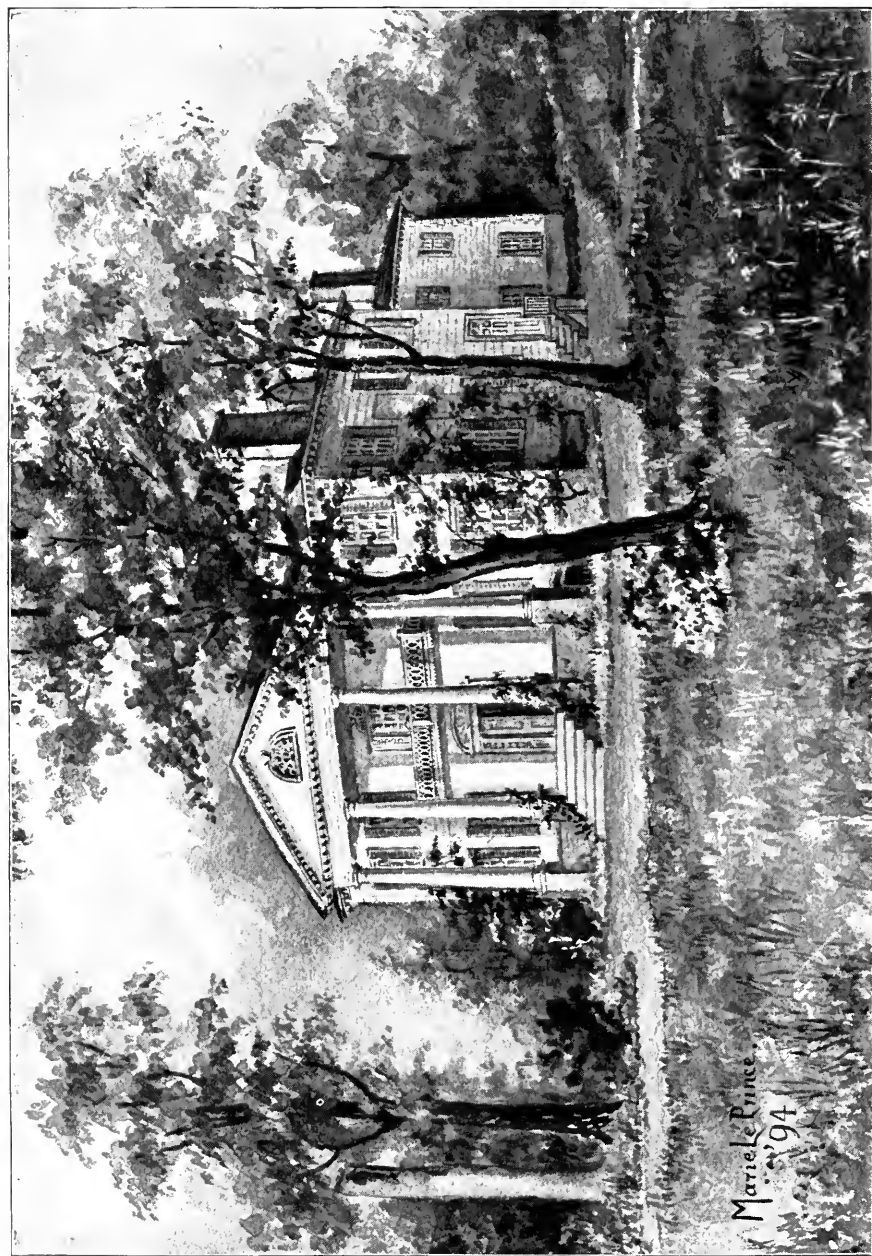
**1777** At Coryell's the Commander-in-chief was notified by Congress that the British fleet of two hundred and twenty-eight sail was off the capes of Delaware; he immediately left for Philadelphia, to which point the main body of his army was marching by way of the Old York Road. Washington devoted two days to an examination of the defenses of the Delaware. Congress on this day commissioned Marquis de Lafayette major-general in the Continental army.

**1787** "Whilst Mr. Morris was fishing I rid over the old cantonment of the American (army) of the winter 1777 & 8, visited all the Works, wch were in Ruins; and the Incampments in woods where the ground had not been cultivated. On my return to Mrs. Moores I found Mr. Robt. Morris and his lady there." *Washington's Diary (Philadelphia).*

"If the title of great man should be awarded to those who, in difficult situations, perform highest duties most beneficially to their country, and most in accord with the rules of wisdom, no character of ancient history, none of modern times, has been more worthy than Washington of that noble name."

*Marquis François de Barbé-Marbois (France).*





WASHINGTON'S HEADQUARTERS (THE ROGER MORRIS HOUSE), NEW YORK, 1776.



### AUGUST FIRST.

**1774** Colonel Washington notes in his diary: "Went from Colonel Bassetts to Williamsburg to the meeting of the Convention; Dined at Mrs. Campbells spent ye evening at my Lodgings." At this convention, which met in the Apollo room, Raleigh Tavern, he presented the famous memorial of the "Freeholders of Fairfax County." Washington said in an eloquent speech, when discussing the raising of troops: "I will equip one thousand men, subsist them at my own expense, and march at once to the relief of Boston."

**1779** The Commander-in-chief wrote to Edmund Randolph of Virginia: "From what causes it proceeds I shall not undertake to say, but so the fact is, we are laboring under the effects of two of the greatest evils that can befall a state of war, a reduced army at the beginning of a campaign, which more than probably is intended for a decisive one, and want of money; or rather a redundancy of it, by which it is become of no value."

**1780** From Peekskill, General Washington wrote to Lafayette: "We are thus far, dear Marquis, on our way to New York. To-morrow the whole army was to have taken up its line of march, and would have moved with all the rapidity in our power to this place, had we not a few hours since advice from the sound, dated yesterday, that the fleet of transports (of the enemy) had put back and were steering Westward." Washington congratulated himself that "Newport had been protected without the firing of a gun."

**1782** General Sir Guy Carleton, officially informed General Washington that "Mr. Laurens has been some time in perfect freedom and had declared that he considered Lord Cornwallis as exchanged."

"On the whole his character was in its mass perfect; in nothing bad, in few points indifferent; and it may be truly said that never did nature and fortune combine more perfectly to make a man great, and to place him in the same constellation with whatever worthies have merited from man an everlasting remembrance. For his was the singular merit and destiny of leading the army of his country successfully through an arduous war for the establishment of its independence, of conducting its councils through the birth of a government new in its form and principles, until it had settled down into a quiet and orderly train; and of scrupulously obeying the laws through the whole of his career, civil and military, of which the history of the world furnishes no other example. . . . Perhaps the strongest feature in his character was prudence, never acting until every circumstance, every consideration was maturely weighed; refraining if he saw a doubt, but when once decided, going through with his purpose whatever obstacles opposed. . . . His integrity was pure, his justice the most inflexible I ever knew."

*Thomas Jefferson (Virginia).*

## AUGUST SECOND.

**1755** Washington wrote his brother Augustine: "So little am I dispirited by what has happened, I am always ready and willing to render my country any services I am capable of, but never upon such terms as I have done, having suffered very much in my private fortune besides impoverishing one of the best of constitutions."

**1757** Colonel Washington advised Governor Dinwiddie, liquor had to be supplied to the Indians, and "that they would not eat salt meat, but killed fresh wherever game was to be found." In regard to "two deserters and great villains": "Your honor will, I hope, excuse my hanging instead of shooting them. It conveyed much more terror to others, and it was for examples sake that we did it."

**1777** At a public dinner in Philadelphia, Washington first met the Marquis de Lafayette, who, though not yet twenty, was major-general in the French and Continental armies. He thanked the young Frenchman for the zeal shown "in leaving France and his bride to assist the cause of America," and at once received him into his military family as well as into his heart and confidence. Their sudden attachment had a flavor of romance, and their relations were like unto that of father and son.

"Although Washington was surrounded by officers and citizens, it was impossible to mistake for a moment his majestic figure and deportment; nor was he less distinguished by the noble affability of his manner." *Lafayette.*

## AUGUST THIRD.

**1775** The Commander-in-chief's anxiety amounted to consternation upon the discovery, at Cambridge, that his powder-supply was so small—only a half-pound to a man. General Sullivan said: "Washington was so struck that he did not utter a word for a half hour."

**1776** "The General is sorry to be informed that the foolish and wicked practice of profane swearing, a vice hitherto but little known in an American army, is growing into fashion. He hopes the officers will by example, as well as influence, endeavor to check it, and that both they and the men will reflect that we can have but little hope of the blessing of heaven on our arms if we insult it by our impiety and folly. Added to this, it is a vice so mean and low, without any temptation, that every man of sense and character detests and despises it." *Orderly Book (New York).*

**1780** Washington, after several requests from General Arnold, ordered him to the command of "the West Point and its dependencies," embracing the flower of the Continental army, massed ready to march into the Jerseys.

"While Plenty decks Columbia's plains,  
Where'er the voice of fame is heard,  
While love of Liberty remains,  
Washington shall be revered.  
With deathless laurels were his temples  
bound,

"Through his whole life no blemish could be  
found,  
From stern integrity he never swerv'd,  
He honored openly the God he serv'd.  
To us who mourn he has example given  
And made more bright the path which leads  
to Heaven."

*Susanna Rowson (England).*



### AUGUST FOURTH.

**1775** General Washington thanked Governor Trumbull for the "New Levies," fourteen hundred recruits sent by Connecticut. This was a great encouragement to the General and the army, especially as the Governor's two sons were among the volunteers. Washington attached both to his staff, and they proved to be valuable officers. "New Levies" was the term applied to the second supply of troops furnished by the Colonial governors.

**1778** In importuning Congress to make some important changes, the Commander-in-chief commended, in unmeasured terms, the administration of General Greene, quartermaster-general, and of Colonel Wadsworth, commissary-general. Ephriam Blaine Esq., of Pennsylvania had the year before succeeded Mr. Buchanan as "Commissary-General of Purchases"; but in truth there was little produced to be purchased—the plowshare had been turned into the sword.

**1787** Washington while presiding over the Constitutional Convention enjoyed a couple of days' recreation with a fishing-party at the Trenton Works, and notes: "In the morning & between breakfast and dinner fished again with more success, (for perch), than yesterday. Dined at Genl. Philemon Dickenson's on the east side of the river, a little above Trenton, & returned in the evening to Colo. Ogden's."

"It will be the duty of the Historian and the Sage in all ages to omit no occasion of commemorating this illustrious man; and until time shall be no more will a test of the progress which our race has made in wisdom and in virtue be derived from the veneration paid to the immortal name of Washington."  
*Lord Brougham (England).*

### AUGUST FIFTH.

**1756** Colonel Washington wrote to the Speaker of the House of Burgesses: "Our soldiers complain that their pay is insufficient even to furnish shoes, shirts, stockings &c which their officers, in order to keep them fit for duty, oblige them to provide. This, they say obliges them to drag through a disagreeable service, in the most disagreeable manner."

**1774** In the Apollo room, Raleigh Tavern, at the Williamsburg Convention, Commissioners were this day selected by ballot to attend the General Congress to meet at Philadelphia in September, and it was resolved that one thousand pounds be raised by subscription, in the several counties, to defray the expenses of these gentlemen. Those chosen were Peyton Randolph, Richard Henry Lee, Patrick Henry, George Bland, Benjamin Harrison, Edmund Pendleton, and George Washington.

**1783** Washington returned to Newburg from his tour with Governor Clinton through the northern part of New York, having traveled 750 miles in nineteen days. They visited Saratoga, Fair Chapel, Lake George, Freeburg, Arm Point, Schenectady, and Fort Stanwix (Oriskany). In conjunction with the Governor he made an effort to buy a large tract of land at Saratoga, being greatly pleased with its waters, and at that early day predicted the brilliant future of the now celebrated springs.

"George Washington always seemed to me our best example of pure character, our finest illustration of the power of 'disciplined will.' Other men have had more genius, a deeper insight into causes, a clearer perception of the meaning of events, but for loyalty to conviction, for incorruptible integrity, for single-hearted fidelity to conscience, he stands peerless."

*Octavius E. Frothingham, D. D. (Massachusetts).*

## AUGUST SIXTH.

1777 Washington wrote his brother from Germantown: "Since General Howe's remove from the Jerseys, the troops under my command have been more harassed by marching, and countermarching than by any thing that has happened to them in the course of the campaign. The fatigue, and injury which men must sustain by long marches in such extreme heat, must keep us quiet, till we hear something of the destination of the enemy." This day was fought the battle of Oriskany (Fort Stanwix), where the Stars and Stripes was unfurled for the first time over a field of battle, and where fell the dauntless Herkimer.

1779 Governor Henry Hamilton having capitulated to a Virginia detachment, which had marched through the wilderness, and invested Fort St. Vincent, was taken as a prisoner to Richmond. The council of Virginia decided that as he had been guilty of exciting the Indians to deeds of cruelty, he was a proper subject of retaliation. Governor Jefferson submitted the question to the Commander-in-chief, who replied that Hamilton, having capitulated, could not, according to the usages of war, be subjected to any uncommon severity.

"When Freedom, from her mountain height,  
Unfurled her standard to the air,  
She tore the azure robe of night,  
And set the stars of glory there!  
She mingled with its gorgeous dyes  
The milky baldrick of the skies,

"And striped its pure celestial white  
With streakings of the morning light;  
Then from his mansion in the sun,  
She called her eagle bearer down,  
And gave into his mighty hand  
The symbol of her chosen land!"

*Joseph Rodman Drake (New York).*

## AUGUST SEVENTH.

1776 General Washington, having learned through deserters that General Clinton and Lord Cornwallis had arrived from South Carolina with 4,000 troops and landed on Staten Island, thus massing the British forces, said: "The disgrace of the British arms at the southward, and the season being far advanced, will make them exert every nerve against us in this quarter. We are to oppose an army of 30,000 experienced veterans, with about one third the number of raw troops, and these scattered some fifteen miles apart."

1783 Congress resolved, "That an equestrian statue of General Washington shall be erected at the place where the residence of Congress shall be established. That the statue be executed by the best artist in Europe, under the superintendence of the Minister of the United States at the Court of Versailles, and that money to defray the expense be furnished from the treasury of the United States." The Washington National Monument was the result of this act.

1789 The Department of War and of the Navy was created, and they continued under one head until 1798. The first cabinet officer nominated by the first President was General Henry Knox, who on September 12th was confirmed.

"Serene, majestic, like thyself, he firmly  
stood,  
Immovable, tho' storms of hate did round him  
rage;  
On truth's foundation fixed, embodied every  
good

"Of patriot tried and true, of soldier, and of  
sage.  
Tho' oft thy sun-lit brow gleams like the driven  
snow,  
Yet round his peerless head there rests a  
brighter glow."

*Alexander Barnes (Minnesota).*

### AUGUST EIGHTH.

**1775** "It has been intimated to the General, that some officers, under pretence of giving furloughs to men recovering from sickness, send them to work upon their farms for their own private emolument, at the same time that the public is taxed with their pay, if not with their provisions. He will show no favor to any officer who shall be found guilty of such iniquitous practices; but will do his utmost endeavors to bring them to exemplary punishment, and the disgrace due to such mal-conduct." *Orderly Book (Cambridge).*

**1776** The Commander-in-chief, when told of an outbreak in the Pennsylvania troops, said: "I have placed so much confidence in the spirit and zeal of the Associated Troops of Pennsylvania, that I cannot persuade myself an impatience to return home, or a less honorable motive will defeat my well grounded expectations." This strong appeal, and the example given by that stanch German-American Christopher Ludwig, for a time quieted the disaffected men.

"Thou, Washington, art all the world's, the Continents entire—not yours alone, America;  
Europe's as well, in every part, castle of lord or laborer's cot,  
Or frozen North, or sultry South—the Arab's in his tent—the African's;  
Old Asia's there with venerable smile, seated amid her ruins;  
Greets the antique the hero new 'tis but the same—the heir legitimate continued ever,  
The indomitable heart and arm—proofs of the never-broken line.

Wherever Freedom, poised by Toleration, swayed by Law,  
Stands, or is rising thy true monument." *Walt Whitman (New Jersey).*

### AUGUST NINTH.

**1780** The army arrived at Tappan, or Orangetown, as the little village, destined to be so widely known, was then called. The General occupied the De Wint House, a quaint old Dutch homestead, still standing. To Mrs. Esther Reed, he expressed a fear that the "two hard dollars which was sent to soldiers wrapped in each shirt, would produce discontent, as, they had only depreciated paper money for their pay."

**1791** To General William Moultrie, of Charleston, President Washington wrote: "My health may be ultimately improved by my tour through the Southern states, my happiness has certainly been promoted by the excursion, and certainly nowhere in a greater degree than while a resident among my fellow citizens of South Carolina."

**1795** The President started to the seat of government, his visit to Mount Vernon being interrupted by the excitement arising from the Jay Treaty with Great Britain. This was the first fight of magnitude upon a constitutional question, and upon arriving in Philadelphia Washington found addresses, messages, and protests against the Treaty awaiting his consideration; but notwithstanding this opposition, he approved of it on the 18th.

"Washington did the two greatest things which in politics it is permitted man to attempt. He maintained by peace the independence of his country which he conquered by war. He founded a free government in the name of the principles of order and by re-establishing their sway. . . . He deserved and enjoyed both success and repose. Of all great men he was the most virtuous and most fortunate. In this world God has no higher favor to bestow."

*Guizot (France).*

**AUGUST TENTH.**

**1777** The Commander-in-chief notified Congress: "I have thought it advisable to remove the army back to Coryell's where it will be near enough to succor Philadelphia, and will be so much more conveniently situated to proceed to the Northward." General Lafayette, on the 8th, witnessed for the first time a review of the Continental army. He said: "Despite the disadvantages the soldiers were fine, and the officers zealous; virtue stood in place of science, and each day added both to experience and discipline."

**1789** President Washington sent his thanks through Messrs. Watson and Cassoul to a sisterhood at Nantes for an elegant masonic apron which the nuns had transmitted through these merchants. It was exquisitely embroidered with French and American flags intertwining fraternal emblems. He admired "its superior expressive style," and to the gentlemen wrote: "For your affectionate vows, permit me to be grateful, and offer mine for true brothers in all parts of the world."

**1794** The President had on the 7th issued a proclamation to the insurgents in western Pennsylvania who organized the Whisky Rebellion, warning them "to desist from their opposition to the Laws." To-day he said in regard to this rebellion: "If a minority is to dictate to the majority there is an end put at one stroke to republican government."

"That great man of yours, George, was a monstrous bore; George was Oliver [Cromwell] with all the juice squeezed out."  
*Carlyle (Scotland).*

**AUGUST ELEVENTH.**

**1780** The Commander-in-chief notified General Arnold of his decision to fortify Dobbs Ferry, and said: "That we may be enabled to finish them in the most expeditious manner, you will be pleased to order sixty of Colonel Baldwin's Artificers to come immediately down here."

**1782** Sir Guy Carleton advised Washington that negotiations for peace had begun in Paris. The first condition was that the "Independency of the Thirteen Colonies would be assured." Washington wrote from Newburg to the Secretary of War: "Having been informed that Major-General Gates is in Philadelphia, and being now about to make my ultimate arrangements for the campaign I take the liberty to request, whether he wished to be employed in this army or not." The General ordered a service stripe to be worn on the arm, the same color as the soldiers' corps, and an additional stripe for each succeeding year of service.

**1790** President Washington, in a letter from New York, thanked Lafayette for the key of the Bastille, and congratulated him upon the fortitude and address with which he had steered himself through the rocks and quicksands of the French Revolution. In a postscript he added: "Not for the value of the thing, my dear Marquis, but as a memorial and because they are the manufacture of this city, I send you a pair of shoe buckles."

"Future generations will bathe in the light of his influence and not only will their praises hail him the first of men, but they will also rank him among the mightiest of Captains."  
*John Griffin, University of Virginia.*

## AUGUST TWELFTH.

**1776** General Washington ordered all badges of distinction on soldiers and non-commissioned officers to be removed, and thereafter bestowed only where the term of service had been uninterrupted and the record unspotted. Washington wrote from New York to the president of Congress: "The enemy have made no movements of consequence. They have not been joined by the remainder of the fleet with the Hessian troops. The Convention of this State have been exerting themselves to call forth a portion of their militia." The convention ordered "that each man, who shall not have arms, shall bring with him a shovel, spade, pick-ax, or a scythe straightened and fixed on a pole."

**1783** When Congress called Washington to Princeton, he wrote Governor Clinton: "As this will remove me to a distance, and may for a considerable time separate us and prevent frequent interviews; I should be much obliged to you for intimating to me, before I go, what will be necessary for me to do respecting our purchase of the Saratoga Springs."

**1786** Major Duplessis, en route for Georgia, stopped for a visit of a few days at Mount Vernon. This French officer, whom General Washington early in the war had commended to Congress for gallantry in the field, was all the more welcome, bearing, as he did, letters from Lafayette.

<p>"High over all whom might or mind made great, Yielding the conqueror's crown to harder hearts, Exalted not by politicians' arts,</p>	<p>"Yet with a will to meet and master Fate, And skill to rule a young divided State, Greater by what was not than what was done, Alone on history's height stands Washington." <i>Richard Grant White (New York).</i></p>
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## AUGUST THIRTEENTH.

**1756** Colonel Washington from the frontier wrote Governor Dinwiddie: "If war is to be declared at this place, I should be glad if your Honor would direct the manner. I know there is ceremony required, but the order I am ignorant of." The Governor replied: "The method, that you are to declare war, is at the head of your companies, with three volleys of small arms, for his Majesty's health, and a successful war."

**1775** The Commander-in-chief made a most diplomatic but unsuccessful remonstrance to General Gage on his treatment of prisoners. That Gage sent home this letter of "Mr. Washington's," and it was printed in the "Universal Magazine" of London for September, giving publicity to the fact that there was an occasion for such a letter, is pronounced an egregious error of the British commander. John Hancock, Samuel Adams, and John Adams, "The Massachusetts Delegation," delivered at Cambridge the five hundred thousand dollars sent by Congress to Washington for the prosecution of the war.

**1790** President Washington after the adjournment of Congress made a voyage in his own barge to Newport for his health, which had suffered greatly from the demands of his office. At this time there was considerable anxiety felt in regard to his condition.

"His sword thirsted not for blood. His arm was not lifted up for conquest. While he fought for the defence of all you hold most dear the havoc necessary for attaining success he deplored. Amid the din of arms the carnage and the hottest rage of battle he listened to the still small voice of humanity in his breast."  
*John B. Johnston, D. D. (New York, 1800).*

**AUGUST FOURTEENTH.**

**1755** Governor Dinwiddie appointed Colonel Washington commander of the Virginia troops, and the House of Burgesses voted him three hundred pounds as "a reward and compensation, for gallant behavior and losses" at the Battle of Monongahela. Washington wrote his mother: "If it is in my power to avoid going to the Ohio again I shall; but if the command is pressed upon me by the general voice of the country, and offered upon such terms as cannot be objected against, it would reflect dishonor upon me to refuse it, and that I am sure must or *ought* to give you greater uneasiness than my going in honorable command; for upon no other terms will I accept it."

**1776** Upon the arrival of the British at New York, Washington addressed his troops, saying, "We must resolve to conquer or die; with this resolution, and the blessing of Heaven, Victory, and Success, certainly will attend us. There will then be a glorious issue to this Campaign, and the General will reward his brave Fellow Soldiers with every Indulgence in his power."

**1781** The failure of the governors of the States to furnish the troops, and the disinclination of Admiral de Grasse to force the harbor of New York, compelled Washington to give up the attack on that city. In council with Rochambeau at Dobbs Ferry, it was determined to march both armies to the head of the Elk to be transported to Virginia for the purpose of attacking Cornwallis.

"Washington had wisdom adequate for every occasion, strength of character to guide a revolution and to stop a counter-revolution which would have made him king. He had wisdom to rule a new-born democracy as its guardian amid the seductions of European monarchies, and to resign to a new republic its rightful throne."  
*Levi Parsons Morton (Vermont).*

**AUGUST FIFTEENTH.**

**1774** Colonel Washington superintended at Belvoir a sale of the personal effects of his intimate friend George William Fairfax, then living in England. Among his purchases was "a large Marble Mortar," afterward used (October, 1785) by Houdon in preparing the plaster of Paris for the cast he made of Washington for the Richmond statue.

**1775** General Washington at Cambridge, in utmost perplexity about powder, wrote to Elias Boudinot: "I have only eight rounds to a man although I have near fourteen Miles of Line to guard, and I dare not fire an Evening or Morning gun. In this situation one of the Committee of Safety from Massachusetts, who was privy to the whole secret deserted and went over to General Gage, and discovered our poverty to him. The fact was so incredible that General Gage treated it as a stratagem of war, and the informant as a spy."

**1777** The Commander-in-chief from Neshaming Camp, Bucks County Pennsylvania, wrote to General Putnam: "The people in the Northern army seem so intimidated by the Indians that I have determined to send up Col. Morgan's corps of riflemen, who will fight them in their own way. They will march from Trenton to-morrow morning."

"Of all the American Statesmen of his time George Washington most fully and accurately appreciated the Military need of his country, viz., that of a military force on land and sea, so thoroughly disciplined as to be strictly obedient to the national will, and of sufficient strength to execute that will."  
*John M. Schofield, Major-General U. S. A.*

### AUGUST SIXTEENTH.

**1779** In inviting Dr. Cochran, director-general of the Military Hospital, his wife and his mother-in-law, Mrs. Livingston, to dine at West Point, Washington wrote: "When the cook has a mind to cut a figure, (which I presume will be the case tomorrow,) we have two Beefsteak pies, or dishes of crabs, in addition, one on each side the centre dish, dividing and reducing the distance between dish & dish to about the space of six feet; which without them would be nearly twelve feet apart. Of late he has had the surprising sagacity to discover that apples will make pies; and it is a question, if in the violence of his efforts, we do not get one of apples instead of having both of Beefsteaks."

**1783** General Washington received from Chevalier Juan de Heintz a communication addressed to Congress proposing that that body should select a number of suitable persons in America to receive "The Order of Divine Providence," an ancient Polish order of knighthood. This document Washington promptly transmitted to Congress. In the following January, being then a private citizen, Washington wrote a most gracious reply, endeavoring to explain that it would illy harmonize with our republican institutions to accept monarchical titles.

"Washington discerned as if by intuition every element and every condition of the body politic. He contemplated its healthful action and the means of its continuance;—its diseased action and prescribed the appropriate remedies. His eye ran along the distant future and his pen with unerring certainty recorded what was to be, and worked out for the embryo nation its path to a glorious destiny."

*William Buell Sprague, D. D. (New York).*

### AUGUST SEVENTEENTH.

**1755** Rev. Samuel Davies, afterward president of Princeton College, preached a sermon to a Virginia regiment in Hanover County, upon "Religion and Patriotism the Constituents of a Good Soldier." He prophetically said: "As a remarkable instance of this I may point out to the public that heroic youth, Colonel Washington, whom I can but hope Providence has hitherto preserved in so signal a manner for some important service to his country."

**1790** As the President entered the harbor at Newport, salutes were fired, and on landing he was escorted through the streets by the clergy and prominent citizens. At the State House a dinner of eighty covers was given him; among the toasts was "May the last be first," in allusion to Rhode Island being the last State to ratify the Constitution.

**1799** General Washington wrote his nephew Robert Lewis in regard to slavery: "To sell the overplus I cannot because I am prejudiced against this kind of traffic in the human species; to hire them out is almost as bad, because they can not be disposed of in families to any advantage and to divide families I have an aversion."

"Great without pomp, without ambition brave,  
Proud not to conquer fellowmen but save;  
Friend to the wretched, Foe to none but  
those

"Who plan their greatness on their Brethren's  
woes,  
And by no titles, faithless to no trust,  
Free from faction, obstinately just."  
*Charles Henry Wharton, D. D. (Maryland).*

**AUGUST EIGHTEENTH.**

**1769** Colonel and Mrs. Washington, with children and servants, were at Warm Springs, Virginia, with the special hope of improving the health of Patsey Custis. Washington wrote: "Some confident reports of Indian disturbances at Fort Pitt, drove many families in from Redstone, and gave some alarm to the female visitors of these waters."

**1782** "The General has the pleasure to inform the army of the total recovery of the State of Georgia from the hands of the enemy. On the 11th of July the British evacuated Savannah leaving the town and works uninjured. Brigadier General Wayne appears to have merited great applause by his conduct there." *Orderly Book (Newburg)*.

**1783** General Washington left Newburg, having the day before issued this his last order from that place: "The Commander-in-chief having been requested by Congress to give his attendance at Princeton, proposes to set out for that place tomorrow; but he expects to have the pleasure of seeing the army again before he retires to private life. During his absence Major General Knox will retain command of the troops, and all reports are to be made to him accordingly."

"While patriots shall not cease to applaud the sacred attachments which you have constantly manifested to the rights of citizens, too often violated by men in arms, your military virtues and achievements will be deeply recorded in the breasts of your countrymen and their posterity, and note the brightest pages in the history of mankind."

*Massachusetts Legislature (1783).*

**AUGUST NINETEENTH.**

**1781** The American and French troops were ordered under arms and the impression given out that an attack on Philadelphia was contemplated, scouts going forward to open the roads "to misguide and bewilder Sir Henry Clinton"; but the armies turned toward Kings Ferry, beginning their march to Yorktown. Washington and suite left the army at this point, proceeding rapidly toward Virginia.

**1790** At Providence the President received the addresses of the Society of the Cincinnati, the Rhode Island Colleges, and dined with 200 gentlemen at the Town Hall. At the conclusion of the President's toast, "The town of Providence," the company with a crowd of citizens walked with him to the wharf, where he and his suite embarked for New York.

**1795** The President placed in the hands of Edmund Randolph, Secretary of State, a despatch indicating that secretary's sympathy with France. This despatch was from Fauchet, the French minister, to his Government, and was found on a French corvette captured by the British, and was delivered by the English minister, Mr. Hammond, to the Secretary of the Treasury, for the information of the Executive. Upon reading it Mr. Randolph immediately offered his resignation, which was promptly accepted.

"I have always admired your great virtues and qualities, your disinterested patriotism, your unshaken courage and simplicity of manner, qualifications by which you surpass men even the most celebrated of antiquity."

*Count Herzburg (Prussia).*



### AUGUST TWENTIETH.

**1775** General Washington again remonstrated with General Gage, upon "unworthy treatment shown officers and citizens of America, whom the fortunes of war, chance, or a mistaken confidence has thrown into your hands. You affect, Sir, to despise all rank not derived from the same source with your own. I cannot conceive one more honorable, than that which flows from the uncorrupted choice of a brave and free people, the present source and original fountain of all power. Far from making it a plea for cruelty, a mind of true magnanimity and enlarged ideas would comprehend and respect it."

**1778** Washington wrote from White Plains to General Nelson: "It is not a little pleasing, nor less wonderful to contemplate, that after two years manœuvring and undergoing the strangest vicissitudes, that perhaps ever attended any one contest since the creation, both armies are brought back to the very point they set out from, and that which was the offending party in the beginning, is now reduced to the use of the spade and pickaxe for defense. The hand of Providence has been so conspicuous in all this, that he must be worse than an infidel, who lacks faith, and more than wicked that has not gratitude enough to acknowledge his obligations."

"His deportment was invariably grave; it was sobriety that stopped short of sadness. His presence inspired a veneration and a feeling of awe, rarely experienced in the presence of any man. His mode of speaking was slow and deliberate, not as though he was in search of fine words; but that he might utter those only adapted to his purpose." *William Sullivan (Maine).*

### AUGUST TWENTY-FIRST.

**1777** Upon receipt of intelligence of the arrival of the enemy in Chesapeake Bay, Congress ordered the immediate removal of the stores and prisoners from Lancaster and York to places of greater safety, and directed Washington "to proceed in such manner as shall appear to him conducive to the general interest."

**1781** General Washington at Treason House, Kings Ferry (as the residence of Joshua Hett Smith, where André and Arnold plotted the delivery of West Point, was called), demanded of the officers commanding His Britannic Majesty's ships at New York, that the commissioners of prisons be allowed to visit the prison ships in the harbor, and that "a bare denial, of what has been asserted by so many individuals who have unfortunately experienced the statements, *will not be satisfactory.*"

**1787** From Philadelphia, Washington wrote General Knox: "By slow, I wish I could add sure movements, the business of the convention advances. I wish a disposition may be found in Congress, the state legislatures, and the community at large, to adopt the government, which may be agreed on in convention, because I am fully persuaded it is the best that can be obtained at the present moment under such a diversity of ideas as prevail."

"Our people must be taught to hold the memory of Washington as the palladium of political virtue, as they hold the Constitution the palladium of our political existence."

*Noah Hunt Schenck, D. D. (New Jersey).*

**AUGUST TWENTY-SECOND.**

**1777** In council of war the day previous (at which Lafayette was present for the first time), it had been determined to march to the North River, but receiving from Congress the information of the arrival of the British, Washington ordered the troops "to move towards Philadelphia and onwards." The brilliant success of General Stark at Bennington was thus announced: "The Commander-in-chief informs the army of the signal victory obtained to the Northward. . . . Our troops behaved in a very brave and heroic manner."

**1784** Lafayette, who had arrived on the seventeenth, was happy in a quiet visit at Mount Vernon. His voyage from Europe of thirty-four days, and his receptions at New York and Philadelphia, had so fatigued him that his visit to Washington was one of rest as well as pleasure.

**1795** President Washington's secretary and friend, Tobias Lear, was married to Fanny Bassett Washington, widow of George Augustine Washington. This "dear Fanny," a niece of Mrs. Washington, had frequently been an inmate of the President's family before her first marriage, and was married at Mount Vernon in 1785; she was a comfort, and much depended upon in the household.

"In whatever light we view the character of this truly great man we are struck with the fresh cause for esteem and admiration we every moment discover. New and shining traits of humility,—of wisdom and disinterested heroism."

*William P. Carey (Ireland).*

**AUGUST TWENTY-THIRD.**

**1776** General Washington notified Congress that nine thousand British had landed at Gravesend Bay, and were within three miles of his lines. In his order he made this stirring appeal to the army: "The Enemy have now landed on Long Island, and the hour is fast approaching, on which the Honor and Success of the Army and the Safety of our Bleeding Country will depend. Remember, officers and soldiers, that you are free men fighting for the blessings of Liberty; that Slavery will be your portion and that of your posterity, if you do not acquit yourselves like men. Remember how your Courage and Spirit have been despised and traduced by your cruel invaders. Be cool but determined, do not fire at a distance, but wait for orders from your officers."

**1779** The Commander-in-chief inclosed to the president of Congress Major Henry Lee's report of the surprise and capture on the nineteenth of the garrison of Paulus Hook (Jersey City). In communicating this intelligence the General with pride said of his old friend: "The Major displayed a remarkable degree of prudence, address, enterprise, and bravery, upon this occasion, which does the highest honor to himself and to all the officers and men under his command. The situation of the post rendered the attempt critical and the success brilliant."

"By unanimous consent, Washington was declared the saviour of his country. All proclaimed him equal to the most renowned commanders of Antiquity, especially distinguished him by the name of the *American Fabius*. His name was in the mouths of all; he was celebrated by the pens of the most distinguished writers."

*Carlo Botta (Italy).*

### AUGUST TWENTY-FOURTH.

**1777** General Washington, at the head of ten thousand troops, three divisions of the army under Generals Sullivan, Greene, and Shirley, marched in single column through Philadelphia, crossing the Schuylkill at Middle Ferry, Market Street, en route to Wilmington, Del. The following day he established headquarters on Quaker Hill, in that city. Thousands of patriots greeted the troops as they passed through the "City of Brotherly Love."

**1780** The Commander-in-chief from his headquarters, "Liberty Pole Tavern," Teaneck, N. J., gave the following order to General Greene: "Take the command of the Light Infantry and four brigades from your own wing, to be employed on a forage down to Bergen, and from thence up to the English neighborhood."

**1795** President Washington offered the portfolio of state, *vice* Edmund Randolph resigned, to Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, saying, "An office of such dignity and high importance ought not to be without a head at such a crisis as this a moment." He had already tendered it to that "valuable man," Thomas Johnson of Maryland.

"The work left undone by Washington was finished by Lincoln. Kindred in service, kindred in patriotism, each is surrounded in death by kindred homage. One sleeps in the East, the other in the West; and thus in death as in life, one is the complement of the other. . . . Washington was the natural representative of National Independence. He might also have represented National Unity had this principle been challenged to bloody battle during his life, for nothing was nearer his heart than the consolidation of our Union."

*Charles Sumner (Massachusetts).*

### AUGUST TWENTY-FIFTH.

**1781** At Kings Ferry the Commander-in-chief for five days had watched the allied armies cross the Hudson. He was most hopeful at the prospect of the reunion with Count de Grasse, and confident of capturing Lord Cornwallis and his army. He wrote the Count: "From the progress already made in our march towards the Chesapeake it is estimated that the troops may arrive at the Head of Elk by the 8th of September." This crossing was conceded to be the most brilliant spectacle of the War of the Revolution.

**1783** General and Mrs. Washington with his military family reached Rocky Hill, the headquarters provided and furnished by Congress, four miles from Princeton. This house, the last headquarters of the Revolution, is still standing.

**1789** Mary Washington, mother of George Washington, died at her home, Fredericksburg, Va., of cancer of the breast, in the eighty-third year of her age, having been a widow forty-six years. This strong, dignified, estimable woman, made immortal through an immortal son, was in every particular worthy of the respect, even the reverence, with which her name is cherished. Lafayette wrote of her: "Never have I felt such veneration."

"But, Good Sirs, here is too much flattery; still George will not forget the lessons I early taught him. He will not forget himself, though he is the subject of so much praise."

*Mary Washington (Virginia).*

**AUGUST TWENTY-SIXTH.**

**1775** The Continentals under fire from Bunker Hill took possession of Plowed Hill, Mount Benedict, an elevation considerably in advance of their lines, and rapidly pushed the work of fortification. Washington informed Congress "the enemy kept up the fire with little spirit on their part, or damage on ours."

**1783** General Washington was received this day by Congress at Princeton, N. J., with every mark of distinction. The order of July 28th reads, "The motive in bringing you was to get your assistance and advice in the arrangements for peace. It may be necessary to consult you on a variety of military subjects. Your being near Congress will be a public good." At twelve o'clock he was escorted to the hall, and listened to an address of welcome from President Elias Bondinot, who said: "Congress feel particular pleasure in seeing your Excellency, and in congratulating you on the success of a war, in which you have acted so conspicuous a part. In other nations men have performed services, for which they have deserved and received the thanks of the public. But to you, sir, peculiar praise is due. Your services have been essential in acquiring and establishing the freedom and independence of your country. They deserve the grateful acknowledgment of a free and independent nation. These acknowledgments, Congress have the satisfaction of expressing to your excellency."

"But more valuable even than his military genius was that unyielding spirit which animated Washington himself, and with which he inspired both the Congress and the people."  
*Gentleman's Magazine (London).*

**AUGUST TWENTY-SEVENTH.**

**1776** The disastrous Battle of Long Island was fought this day. There was distressing loss in the gallant Maryland line. Stirling's division was cut up, and Stirling and Sullivan were made prisoners. So great did the British esteem this victory that General Howe was promptly knighted. This was the bloodiest field of the Revolution, but the Continentals stood firmly, as their great loss testifies.

**1777** General Washington, accompanied by Generals Lafayette, Greene, and Weedon, reconnoitered the previous day to within three miles of the Head of Elk, at which point the British had just landed. They were in imminent danger of capture, having to remain all night at a farm-house, in consequence of a terrible storm, and at dawn returned to Wilmington.

**1781** To Robert Morris, Superintendent of Finance, Washington appealed for funds, Congress having failed to pay the troops. He said: "The service they are going on is disagreeable to the Northern regiments; but I make no doubt that a douceur of a little hard money would put them in proper temper." Morris upon his own responsibility borrowed \$30,000 (\$20,000 from Count de Rochambeau), making the attack on Yorktown possible.

"The publication of the correspondence of Washington is, without doubt, the noblest monument which could have been raised to his glory. In it is truly shown this great character, so original in his simplicity. Little to astonish, few special characteristics, but a striking whole."  
*Cornelis De Witt (France).*

**AUGUST TWENTY-EIGHTH.**

**1779** The condition of the army is shown in this letter from Washington, at West Point, to Governor Johnson of Maryland: "It is really in many instances painfully distressing; the necessaries of life and the means of procuring them has compelled many officers of good reputation to resign their Commissions."

**1780** Washington wrote to the president of Congress: "The intelligence brought by the Alliance of the French troops being blocked up in Brest, by thirty two British ships of the line, has made a material change in the prospects of the campaign. This, and the extreme distress of our magazines, have determined me to dismiss all the militia in service, except such part as was wanted for immediate use."

**1781** The Commander-in-chief organized "a Light Division" of choice regiments under General Lincoln, and ordered the rear-guard, which made a feint on New York, to join the main army by forced march. In asking for militia of Governor Lee of Maryland, he said: "The moment, the opportunity is precious, the prospect most favorable, I hope that no supineness, or waste of exertion on our own part may prove the means of disappointment."

"The similarity between his public virtues and those of Alfred the Great is admirable. These extraordinary men were both celebrated for their love of justice, their fortitude, patriotism and piety."  
*John Corry (Life of Washington, 1802).*

**AUGUST TWENTY-NINTH.**

**1756** Colonel Washington, from Winchester, Va., wrote Lord Fairfax to furnish him militia to repulse the Indians on the frontier, saying, "It is with infinite concern, I see the distresses of the people, and hear their complaints, without being able to afford them relief. The Maryland settlements are all abandoned is certainly *fact*, as I have had the accounts transmitted to me by several hands. . . . Three hundred and fifty wagons had passed Monocacy to avoid the enemy within the space of three days."

**1776** At a council of war in the mansion of Philip Livingston, Brooklyn Heights, it was decided "to give up Long Island, and not by dividing the force, be unable to resist the enemy in any one point of attack." This retreat was so well conducted that it called forth praise from European commanders. It was said that in the dark many of the troops did not realize they were retreating until they reached East River. The suffering from extreme heat was distressing, especially to the wounded. Washington was an inspiration to such brave men, and indefatigable in his efforts to cheer and relieve their sufferings.

"His genius, it is true, was of a peculiar kind; the genius of character, of thought and the objects of thought solidified and concentrated into active faculty. He belongs to that rare class of men, rare as Homers and Miltons—rare as Platos and Newtons—who have impressed their character upon nations without pampering national vices."

*Edwin Percy Whipple (Massachusetts).*

**AUGUST THIRTIETH.**

**1780** The Commander-in-chief addressed a protest to General Haldimand, in Quebec, upon learning that several American gentlemen were suffering unjust imprisonment in that city, and asked that they might be transferred to New York.

**1781** General Washington, Rochambeau, and Chastellux, with their suites, arrived at Philadelphia. They were met in the suburbs by the City Light Horse, and escorted to the City Tavern. They paid their respects to Congress, and dined at the house of Robert Morris with the president, Hon. Thomas M'Kean, and other gentlemen of distinction. Vessels lying in port fired salutes when the different toasts were drunk. "In the evening the city was illuminated, and his Excellency walked through some of the principal streets, attended by a numerous concourse of people, eagerly pressing to see their beloved General."

**1790** The President, having returned from Newport on the 21st, left New York for Mount Vernon, to remain until Congress should convene in December at Philadelphia. This proved to be his final leave-taking of New York.

"The universal consent of mankind accords to Washington the highest place among the great men of the race. He has no peer in the combination of absolute disinterestedness, sound judgment, knowledge of the character of his country, integrity, prudence, untiring industry, patience, self-command, comprehension of things in their largest relations, rapid decision in emergency, dignity and grace of demeanor."  
*George Frisbie Hoar (Massachusetts).*

**AUGUST THIRTY-FIRST.**

**1774** In Washington's diary is the following: "After dinner in company with Patrick Henry and Mr. Pendleton started to attend the General Congress at Philadelphia." In summing up the ability of that Congress, Patrick Henry said: "If you speak of eloquence, Mr. Rutledge of South Carolina is the greatest orator; but if you speak of solid information and sound judgment, Colonel Washington is by far the greatest man on the floor."

**1776** From headquarters, New York, Washington wrote Congress of the disastrous engagement on Long Island, explaining that he had not sooner written on account of the extreme heat and exhaustion caused by sleeplessness and being forty-eight hours in the saddle. In an order to the army, he said: "The General hopes the several officers, both superior and inferior, will now exert themselves, and gloriously determine to conquer, or die. From the justice of our cause, the situation of the harbor, and the bravery of her sons, America can only expect success. Now is the time for every man to exert himself, and make our country glorious, or it will become contemptible."

**1791** The following is found in the records of Harvard College: "That the thanks of this corporation be given to Mr. Edward Savage for his polite and generous attention to this University, in painting a portrait of the President of the United States, taken by him from the life." This portrait now hangs in the Hall of Philosophy.

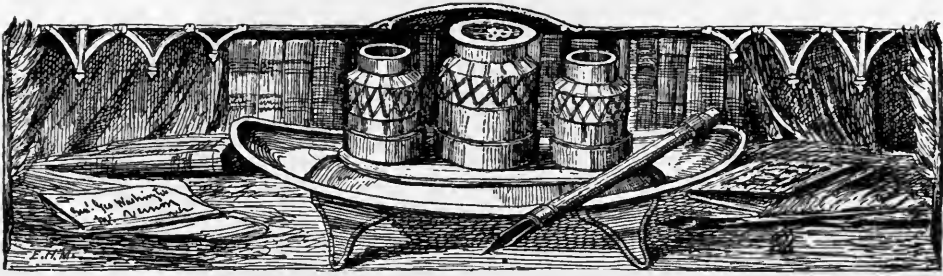
"It was in Washington that these four cardinal virtues, justice, prudence, temperance, and fortitude, formed a union so rare and complete."  
*James Madison, Bishop of Virginia.*





WASHINGTON'S HEADQUARTERS, TAPPAN, NEW YORK, 1780.





### SEPTEMBER FIRST.

**1753** On the eve of starting upon the mission to Fort le Boeuf, Major Washington, having come to take leave of his mother, attended a meeting of the Masonic Lodge at Fredericksburg, Va., with his friend Captain Jacob Van Braam. It was this foreign officer, or as he was called "Master of Fence," who had instructed him in the art of fencing.

**1758** Colonel Washington wrote from camp, near Fort Cumberland, to John Robinson, Speaker of the House of Burgesses: "We are still encamped here, very sickly, and quite dispirited at the prospect before us. See how our time has been misspent. How is it to be accounted for? I wish I were sent immediately home, as an aid to some other on this errand. I think, without vanity, I could set the conduct of this expedition in its true colors, having taken some pains, perhaps more than any other man, to dive to the bottom of it."

**1775** This entry in Washington's account-book shows his genius for detail: "Sept. 1, 1775 To paper, sealing-wax & severals, £6. 10.0. To cash for recovering my Pistols which had been stolen & repairing them afterwards. £1, 10, 0."

**1784** Washington started on a long Western journey, accompanied by Dr. Craik. They traveled seven hundred miles during five weeks' absence, and investigated the facilities for internal navigation afforded by the rivers which have their sources among the Alleghany Mountains, and they inspected the lands where Washington had large possessions.

"Washington when he took his seat in the House of Burgesses was in the plenitude of his splendid mental and physical powers. His aspirations and conceptions of the duties of the citizen were exalted and noble, his character was formed and recognized as eminent by the foremost men of the day. He had already demonstrated his prowess in arms and his capabilities as a leader of men under trying circumstances so that he was entitled to be ranked as one of the most promising if not actually the most conspicuous character in the colonies. Truth courage and manhood the central pillars in the temple of personal rectitude were conspicuous in him from his youth; which in their totality we call character. The term character is used advisedly as indicating his well-balanced faculties resulting from the harmonious blending of his vigorous physical organization, strong mental powers culture and high moral concepts. Washington more justly than any other man may be likened to a circle the excellence of which depends on its complete roundness not on its magnitude."

*Joseph Meredith Toner, M. D. (Maryland).*

**SEPTEMBER SECOND.**

**1775** The Commander-in-chief issued to Captain Nicholson Boughton of Marblehead, Mass., the first naval commission, with orders to "take command of the Schooner Hannah, and cruise about such vessels as may be found on the high seas bound inward or outward from Boston in service of the Ministerial Army." Three days later he sailed "to defy the proud navy of England."

**1781** From Philadelphia, pushing on to Yorktown, Washington wrote to Lafayette: "Should the retreat of Lord Cornwallis by water be cut off I am persuaded you will do all in your power to prevent his escape by land. May that great felicity be reserved for you."

**1787** General Washington in Philadelphia carefully notes his examination of an invention: "Visited a machine at Doctor Franklin's (called a mangle) for pressing, in place of Ironing Clothes from the wash, which machine from the facility with which it dispatches business is well calculated for Table Cloths & such articles as have not pleats & irregular foldings, and would be very useful in large families."

"Your name alone, sir, has established in Europe a confidence that for some time before was entirely wanting in American concerns. This is more glorious for you than all the laurels that your sword so nobly won in the rights of human nature. In war your name is immortal as the hero of liberty; in peace you are her patron and the firmest supporter of her rights."

*John Paul Jones, U. S. Navy.*

**SEPTEMBER THIRD.**

**1777** General Washington wrote from Wilmington to the president of Congress: "This morning the Enemy came out with a considerable force and three pieces of Artillery, against our Light advanced corps, and after some pretty smart skirmishing obliged them to retreat, being far inferior in number and without cannon. The design of their movement seems to have been to disperse our Light Troops, who had been troublesome to them, and to gain possession of Iron Hill, to establish a post for covering their retreat in case of accidents." Of John Cadwalader of Maryland, Washington said: "I know him to be a judicious, valuable officer and I have often regretted that he did not hold a higher command in the Army of the United States."

**1781** The French army marched through Philadelphia, and at the State House was reviewed by the president of Congress, the Commander-in-chief, Count de Rochambeau, and suites. To proclaim the superiority, at all times and under all circumstances, of the civil over the military, President McKean stood with head covered, while the generals by his side removed their chapeaus. This well-drilled and perfectly equipped army called forth universal admiration, and was two days in passing.

"Where may the wearied eye repose  
When gazing on the great,  
Where neither guilty glory grows,  
Nor despicable state:  
Yes, one—the first, the last, the best,  
The Cincinnatus of the West,  
Whom envy dared not hate—  
Bequeathed the name of Washington,  
To make men blush, there was but One."

*Byron (England).*

### SEPTEMBER FOURTH.

**1774** Colonel Washington, Patrick Henry, and Edmund Randolph, having breakfasted at Wilmington, crossed Christiana Ferry and dined in Chester. It was a notable trio: Washington was forty-two years of age, Patrick Henry four years his junior, and Edmund Randolph threescore. As they had journeyed from Virginia, these earnest patriots had with evil forebodings discussed the ill usage received from the mother-country and the possibilities of redress without resorting to arms.

**1778** From White Plains, Washington wrote to the president of Congress: "The designs of the enemy, as to their future movements, remain yet entirely unfolded; but the expectation of their leaving the continent is daily decreasing. The hurricane season seems opposed to their going to the West Indies. Where the theatre of war maybe, must be a matter of conjecture."

**1794** Upon the arrival in this country of the son of his dear friend Lafayette, and his namesake, the President wrote to George Calvert: "I will be his friend, but the manner of becoming so, considering the obnoxious light in which his father is viewed by the French Government, and my own situation as the Executive of the United States requires time to consider in all its relations."

"His administration was a satire on those born to rule. When we see a whole nation of freemen in tears—disconsolate for the death of a fellow citizen;—What words can swell his panegyric?"

*Timothy Bigelow (Massachusetts).*

### SEPTEMBER FIFTH.

**1774** Colonel Washington, one of the fifty-one members of the General Congress, was present at its opening in Carpenter's Hall, Philadelphia. This body was called together to express the sentiments of the colonies, and to take measures in regard to the situation in Massachusetts. Silas Deane wrote his wife: "You may tell your friends that I never met, nor scarcely had an idea of meeting with men of such firmness, sensibility, spirit, and thorough knowledge of the interests of America, as the gentlemen from the Southern Provinces appear to be. May New England go hand in hand with them, and we need not fear a want of spirit."

**1781** "The rear of the French army having reached Philadelphia, and the Americans having passed it, the stores having got up and everything in a tolerable train here; I left the city for the head of Elk to hasten the embarkation at that place, and on my way received the agreeable news of the safe arrival of the Count de Grasse in the Bay of Chesapeake with 28 sail of the line, and four frigates with 3,000 land troops which were to be immediately debarked at Jamestown, and form a junction with the American army under the command of the Marquis de Lafayette." *Washington's Journal.*

"Some great men have played leap-frog; some practised this affectation, some that. The book of history records too amply the child-like diversions among those who have flourished on the summits of renown. We hear of none of this in Washington."

*Richard Rush (Pennsylvania).*

**SEPTEMBER SIXTH.**

**1776** The Commander-in-chief divided his army into three divisions,—five thousand to remain in New York, nine thousand to be placed at Kings Bridge and its dependencies, and the third to move between the two points. In reply to Congress, asking him “to have a special care taken, in case he shall find it necessary to quit New York, that no damage be done the city, by his troops on their leaving it,” he said: “In case we are obliged to abandon it I shall take every measure in my power to prevent it.”

**1777** Washington said: “Since General Howe’s debarkation in Elk river he has moved on about seven miles; his main body now lays at Iron Hill, and ours near a village called Newport (three miles beyond Wilmington), in this position the armies are from eight to ten miles apart. It is yet very uncertain what General Howe’s plan of operations will be.”

**1781** To Admiral Count de Grasse, General Washington replied: “I have been honored by your Excellencies favor of the 2nd instant, and do myself the pleasure to felicitate you on the happy arrival of so formidable a fleet of his Most Christian Majesty in the Bay of Chesapeake under your Excellency’s command.”

“All I can say is that I look upon Washington, among great and good men, as one peculiarly good and great; and that he has been to me for more than forty years a light upon the path of life.”

*William E. Gladstone.*

**SEPTEMBER SEVENTH.**

**1774** On motion of Samuel Adams of Massachusetts Bay, the first prayer was offered in the General Congress by Rev. Jacob Duché, the eloquent Episcopal divine. After reading the thirty-fifth Psalm, he made fervent extempore prayer. He was then an ardent patriot, but when the British occupied Philadelphia his courage failed, and he wrote Washington begging him to resign and “to represent to Congress, the indispensable necessity of rescinding the hasty and ill-advised Declaration of Independence.”

**1785** Washington applied to Samuel Fraunce, New York, the well-known boniface, to do him the favor of securing him a housekeeper, whom he could recommend for honesty and knowledge of her profession, “to relieve Mrs. Washington from the drudgery of ordering.” After he became President, Fraunce was his chef de cuisine, but was dismissed on account of extravagance.

**1788** To Colonel William Barton, of Rhode Island, that gallant militia officer who captured General Prescott (in 1778 exchanged for General Charles Lee), Washington wrote in regard to the unreasonable prejudice against an innocent institution, “I mean the Cincinnati,” repudiating all designs on the part of its promoters of setting up an order of nobility.

“His fame is a sea without a shore. Learn from him to be all eye, all ear, all heart in the service of your country, to think no service too great, which public good requires at your hands. He had religion without austerity, dignity without pride, modesty without diffidence, politeness without affectation, affability without familiarity.” *David Ramsay, LL. D. (South Carolina).*

**SEPTEMBER EIGHTH.**

**1781** General Washington and his Adjutant-General Hand, Governor Clinton, Count de Rochambeau, Chastellux, and Vioménil, on their journey to Yorktown, received a warm welcome at Baltimore. The city was illuminated, the streets crowded with men, women, and children, and about "Fountain Inn," where Washington remained all night, "the scene was one of almost frantic joy."

**1782** The Commander-in-chief informed General Sir Guy Carleton that he had selected Major-Generals Heath and Knox to confer with the English commissioners, Lieutenant-General Campbell and Mr. Elliott, to settle a general cartel for exchange of prisoners. He proposed that the meeting be held at Tappan on the 18th, "at which time my Commissioners will attend and will be accompanied by the Commissioners of prisoners."

**1791** President Washington wrote to General and Mrs. Knox on the death of a child; one of their children had been named for him. On this occasion, as on every other when opportunity offered, he gave assurance of his abiding faith in God. He said: "He that gave, you know, has the right to take away. His ways are wise, they are inscrutable and irresistible."

"Washington stands alone, unapproachable, like a snow peak rising above its fellows into the clear air of the morning, with a dignity, constancy, and purity which have made him the ideal type of civic virtue to succeeding generations. No greater benefit could have befallen the republic than to have such a type from the first, before the eye and mind of the people."

*James Bryce, M. P., "The American Commonwealth" (England).*

**SEPTEMBER NINTH.**

**1777** At Newport, Delaware, General Washington, with the Continental army, having waited all day under arms, expecting an attack from Sir William Howe, who was only two miles in the rear, marched through the night, and took post on the high grounds near Chadd's Ford.

**1781** The Commander-in-chief, from the Head of Elk, en route for Yorktown, accompanied only by Adjutant-General Hand, reached Mount Vernon late in the evening, having been absent from his beloved home six years and four months — a separation which had been a sorrow demanding all the fortitude his strong nature had been able to summon.

**1786** Washington wrote from Mount Vernon to that early advocate of anti-slavery, Governor John Francis Mercer of Maryland: "I never mean, unless some particular circumstances should compel me to it, to possess another slave by purchase, it being among my first wishes to see some plan adopted by which slavery in this country may be abolished by law."

"Twice he was made dictator, with absolute power, and never abused the awful and despotic trust. The monarchic soldiers and civilians would make him king. He tramped on their offer, and went back to his fields of corn and tobacco at Mount Vernon. The grandest act of his public life was to give up his power; the most magnanimous deed of his private life was to liberate his slaves."

*Theodore Parker (Massachusetts).*

**SEPTEMBER TENTH.**

**1780** The Commander-in-chief and his generals attended the funeral of Brigadier-General Enoch Poor, who was mortally wounded in a duel with a French officer. He was interred at the old Dutch Reformed Church, Hackensack. Washington said he was "an officer of distinguished merit, who as a citizen and a soldier had every claim to the esteem of his country."

**1781** General and Mrs. Washington received, at Mount Vernon, Count de Rochambeau, Chastellux, and Vioménil. These noblemen enjoyed, with all the zest of boys, the short relaxation from care and the generous hospitality of the Virginia plantation.

**1783** From Rocky Hill, Washington wrote a fraternal letter to Thomas Paine, saying, "Come to this place and partake of my board. Your presence may remind Congress of your past services to this country, and if it is in my power to impress them, command my best exertions with freedom, as they will be rendered cheerfully by one who entertains a lively sense of the importance of your works."

"His stature is noble and lofty; he is well made and exactly proportioned; his physiognomy mild and agreeable, but such as renders it impossible to speak particularly of any of his features, so that in quitting him you have only the recollection of a fine face. He has neither a grave nor a familiar air; his brow is sometimes marked with thought, but never with inquietude. Inspiring respect, he inspires confidence, and his smile is always the smile of benevolence."

*Marquis de Chastellux (France).*

**SEPTEMBER ELEVENTH.**

**1777** The Battle of Brandywine was fought this day. Washington, in his report to Congress, said: "We had a pretty general engagement with the enemy which from some unlucky incidents terminated against us, so far as our being obliged after an obstinate action to quit the field, with a loss of some men, and artillery. But from every account we have reason to believe the enemy suffered more than we did in the number of killed and wounded." Lafayette was seriously wounded; he was taken to the Moravians, at Bethlehem, and tenderly nursed, but all his life suffered from this wound received in his first important battle.

**1781** In honor of their military guests, General and Mrs. Washington gave a dinner party at Mount Vernon. The neighbors were invited to welcome their old friend, and meet the distinguished French and American officers. Thirteen years before, this entry is found in Washington's diary: "Lord Fairfax, his brother, Colonel William Fairfax and Mr. B. Fairfax dined at Mount Vernon."

**1789** The President appointed his first cabinet officer, Alexander Hamilton, of New York, Secretary of the Treasury, and the following day Henry Knox, of Massachusetts, Secretary of War and of the Navy. The failure of Congress to establish departments and fix the salaries of the officials caused delay in forming the cabinet.

"He was in the highest sense of the word a gentleman and a man of honor, and he carried into public life the severest standard of private morals."

*William E. H. Lecky (England).*

### SEPTEMBER TWELFTH.

**1776** Congress left to the Commander-in-chief the decision of evacuating New York, and he called his generals together for consultation. "A large majority not only determined a removal of the army prudent, but absolutely necessary, declaring they were entirely convinced from a full and minute inquiry into our situation that it was extremely perilous."

**1777** After the Battle of Brandywine, General Washington, at the head of his army, marched toward Philadelphia. The troops were in good spirits, though the enemy was in possession of the field. General Howe requested that American surgeons be sent to care for their wounded. The day following, this order was issued: "The General with peculiar satisfaction thanks the gallant officers of the eleventh inst. who bravely fought in their country's cause."

**1778** To Henry Laurens, Washington wrote of Monsieur Gérard, the first French minister: "I have placed him among the number of those we ought to revere. Should you see no impropriety in my (being a stranger) presenting compliments to him, I would give you trouble in doing this, and of assuring him that I could wish to be considered as one of his admirers."

"Washington was so useful because he was so devout, he was so strong because he was so reliant upon God, and unselfish and heroic because he had in him the self-sacrificing spirit of Christ. In fine, Washington was chief among men because, like his Master, he cheerfully became the servant of all."

*Joel Swartz, D. D. (Virginia).*

### SEPTEMBER THIRTEENTH.

**1780** The Commander-in-chief gave Captain Hendricks Solomon, a Stockbridge chief, a letter to the president of Congress, in which he said: "He and the twenty warriors with him have done good service and I have indulged them in a visit to Philadelphia, and desire they shall receive presents of clothes &c." Washington sent to General Arnold this, his last command: "I shall be at Peekskill on Sunday eve'g on my way to Hartford to meet the French Admiral and General. You will be pleased to send down a guard of a Captain and 50 at that time, and direct the q'rmaster to endeavor to have a night's forage for about forty Horses. You will keep this to yourself, as I want to make my journey a secret."

**1781** Washington, on his way from Mount Vernon to Yorktown, paused at Fredericksburg to present to his mother the distinguished foreign and native officers. Upon his arrival at Williamsburg the following day, he established his headquarters in the Wythe House. The troops, especially the French, received him with delight; and his meeting with Lafayette was recorded by an old soldier as being "something to remember."

"All his answers are pertinent; he shows the utmost reserve and is very diffident; but at the same time he is firm and unchangeable in whatever he undertakes. His modesty must be very astonishing, especially to a Frenchman. He speaks of the American war, as though he had not directed it; and of his victories with an indifference which strangers even would not affect."

*Jean Pierre Brissot (France).*

**SEPTEMBER FOURTEENTH.**

**1775** The Commander-in-chief gave Colonel Benedict Arnold command of a detachment to join General Schuyler's expedition to Quebec, with instructions to "check every idea and crush in its earliest stages every attempt to plunder even those, who are known to be enemies of our cause. As far as lies in your power, you are to protect and support the free exercise of the religion of the country."

**1776** General Washington, from his headquarters, the Morris House, Harlem, sent Captain Nathan Hale on his fatal mission to Long Island. Despite the protests of officers and pleadings of comrades, this patriot undertook the hazardous duty of a spy.

**1782** At Verplanck's Point the entire army, under arms, forming a line of three miles, paraded to receive General Rochambeau on his return from the South. Every mark of honor was accorded the French commander and his army. General Washington ordered that only French music should be played. The Continentals were for the first time in full uniform, heretofore their only uniformity having been a cap on which was the word "Liberty." Rochambeau was enthusiastic over their advance in military bearing, saying to Washington: "You must have formed an alliance with the King of Prussia. These troops are Prussians."

"The excellence of Washington is of no common character. It is that excellence that makes panegyric poor, that defies description, that overpowers eloquence."

*Francis Scott Key (Maryland).*

**SEPTEMBER FIFTEENTH.**

**1776** A detachment of British landed at Kips Bay, and engaged some Connecticut troops, who became panic-stricken and fled. Washington reached the spot, and in his endeavor to rally the soldiers was in the hottest of the fight. He established headquarters at the Morris House, the home of Major Roger Morris, one of the British officers wounded in Braddock's engagement. His wife was Mary Philipse, and in 1756 Colonel Washington was her suitor. Washington wrote: "I would beg leave to mention to Congress that the pay now allowed to nurses, is by no means adequate to their services. The officers I have talked with upon the subject, all agree that they should be allowed a dollar per week, and for less they cannot be had."

**1781** Washington sent a courier from Williamsburg to General Lincoln, saying, "Every day we now lose is comparatively an age, as soon as it is in our power with safety, we ought to take our position near the enemy. Hurry on, then my dear General with your troops on the wings of speed. The want of our men and stores is now all that retards our immediate operations."

"I can only say that, seen from my special point of view, Washington was a great Englishman, who fought for English rights against the government of the King of England, not against the English nation. Hatred of the English nation he never betrayed, nor could he be fostering it now."

*Goldwin Smith, LL. D. (Canada).*



**SEPTEMBER SIXTEENTH.**

**1776** The Commander-in-chief witnessed the engagement of Harlem Heights, from the Point of Rocks, between the Hessian Yagers, British Light Infantry and Highlanders, and the American riflemen. The troops fought well on both sides, and gave great proof of their marksmanship. The next day, in thanking the men for their gallant bearing, Washington contrasted them with the troops at Kips Bay, showing "what may be done where officers and soldiers exert themselves."

**1777** Congress preferred charges against General Sullivan, as the principal disaster at the Battle of Brandywine was under his command. Washington defended this brilliant, impetuous officer, and suspended his recall, saying, "It is not my wish to prevent or to delay a proper inquiry into General Sullivan's conduct a single instant, when the circumstances of the army will admit. But now they prohibit it and I think the suspension of his command also."

**1795** President Washington wrote to Timothy Pickering, Secretary of War and the Navy, directing him to investigate the junction of the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers, called Harper's Ferry, as to its suitability for a United States arsenal, giving his favorable opinion, and recounting its peculiar advantages.

"His face is handsome, noble and mild. He is tall (at least five feet eight inches). In the evening I was at supper with him; I mark as a fortunate day, that in which I had been able to behold a man so truly great."  
Claude Blanchard (France).

**SEPTEMBER SEVENTEENTH.**

**1777** The Continental Congress for the second time invested the Commander-in-chief with absolute power, making him Military Dictator.

**1787** "Met in Convention, when the Constitution received the unanimous assent of 11 states and Colo. Hamilton's from New York (the only delegate from thence in Convention), and was subscribed to by every member present, except Gov. Randolph and Colo. Mason from Virginia, & Mr. Gerry from Massachusetts. The business being thus closed, the members adjourned to the City Tavern, dined together and took a cordial leave of each other." *Washington's Diary (Philadelphia).*

**1796** It being the policy of President Washington to offer inducements in the capital city to foreign countries, he wrote the Commissioners of the Territory of Columbia, that "it would be very agreeable and pleasing to me if a site should be given to the Spanish Minister upon which he could erect a residence for the Representative of that country to the United States. It would contribute much more to the advancement of the city than any pecuniary consideration to be derived from sale of Lots."

"Hail! patriot Chief, all Hail! Historic fame  
 In purest gold hath traced thy glorious name!      "Earth has Niagara—the sky its sun,—  
 And proud mankind its only Washington."  
Alfred B. Street (New York).

**SEPTEMBER EIGHTEENTH.**

**1781** Washington accompanied by Generals Rochambeau, Knox, Duportail, and Marquis de Chastellux, embarked on board the *Queen Charlotte* for an interview with Admiral de Grasse off Cape Henry. He was received by the French admiral on his flag-ship, *Ville de Paris*, with the honors due a marshal of France.

**1787** When he sent the proceedings of the Federal Convention to Lafayette, Washington said: "It is the result of four months deliberation. It is now a child of fortune, to be fostered by some, and buffeted by others. What will be the general opinion, or the reception of it, is not for me to decide; nor shall I say anything for or against it. If it be good, I suppose it will work its way; if bad, it will recoil on the framers."

**1793** President Washington as Master Mason marched with the Alexandria Lodge No. 22, and assisted in laying the southeast corner-stone of the Capitol. On this occasion he wore the apron and regalia embroidered by the Marquise de Lafayette. The gavel used is preserved in Lodge No. 9, Georgetown, D. C. The centenary of this event was celebrated by the Government, and by the citizens of the District of Columbia.

"The life and example of Washington can never be too vividly portrayed. The century just closing has not dimmed the glory of his achievements, nor lessened the admiration of his grateful countrymen." *Adlai E. Stevenson (Kentucky), Vice-President of the United States.*

**SEPTEMBER NINETEENTH.**

**1751** George Washington sailed for Barbados, with his brother, Lawrence. In his diary he has left a naïve record of the social life at the islands, as well as more practical observations of their climate and productions. Major Lawrence Washington's health, which had never been regained since the siege of Carthagena, compelled him to resign his position of Adjutant Inspector of Virginia Militia. This he did in favor of his brother George, who at the age of nineteen was commissioned Major of the Fourth Division, with a salary of £150 a year—his first military office.

**1783** In referring to Mrs. John Parke Custis's marriage to Dr. David Stuart, Washington said: "I never shall give advice to a woman who is setting out on a matrimonial voyage; first, because I could never advise one to marry without her own consent; and secondly, because I know it is to no purpose to advise her to refrain when she has obtained it."

**1796** President Washington issued his "Farewell address to the people of the United States" in the "Daily Advertiser," Philadelphia. He presented the MS. copy to the editor, David C. Claypoole, and it is now preserved as a sacred relic in the Lenox Library, New York. This priceless address has been styled "Washington's legacy," and must remain unique among the possessions of the New World.

"Washington reverses the rules of perspective in history, for the farther he recedes the nobler and grander does his figure become."

*James Abraham Garfield, President of the United States.*

**SEPTEMBER TWENTIETH.**

**1765** Commenting on the Stamp Act to Colonel Danaridge, London, Washington wrote: "Our whole substance does already in a manner flow to Great Britain, and that whatsoever contributes to lessen our importations must be hurtful to their manufactures. Many luxuries which we lavish our substance in Great Britain for can well be dispensed with, whilst the necessities of life are to be had within ourselves. This consequently, will introduce frugality, and be a necessary stimulation to industry."

**1768** "Colo Burwell and myself went away to Belvoir, and Mrs. Washington and ye two children went to Alexandria to see 'Inconstance, or How to Win Her,' acted." *Washington's Diary*.

**1777** At Parker's Ford, with water up to the armpits, the army crossed the Schuylkill, hoping to intercept the crossing of the enemy. "There was great difficulty in getting information," said the Commander-in-chief, "as the inhabitants are disaffected to a man." "His Excellency, General Washington was with the troops in person, who marched past here, the Trappe, to the Perkiomen. The procession lasted the whole night, and we had numerous visits from officers, wet breast high, who had to march in this condition during the whole night, cold and damp as it was, and to bear hunger and thirst at the same time."

"The orb of his fame now in the mid heavens will increase in lustre and its power of attraction, to the end of time."

*James Osborne Putnam (New York).*

**SEPTEMBER TWENTY-FIRST.**

**1780** The Commander-in-chief, accompanied by Generals Lafayette and Knox, reached Hartford, where he met Count de Rochambeau and Admiral de Ternay, and with "stately cordiality" welcomed them to the New World. A conference of war was held at the mansion of Colonel Peleg Wadsworth. There was much curiosity among these European officers to see the great leader, and of him they have left valuable pen-pictures.

**1782** At Verplanck's Point, the second anniversary of the meeting of Washington and Rochambeau was devoted by the Continentals to a military reception, festival, and feast, in compliment to the French army. A French officer says: "This camp was covered with garlands and pyramids, as so many trophies raised by the hand of liberty. Their most exact uniformity, the neat dress of the men, the glittering of their arms, their martial look and a kind of military luxury, gave a most magnificent appearance to this assemblage of citizens in defense of their country."

**1787** Returning from the Constitutional Convention, Washington notes: "Breakfasted in Baltimore, dined at the Widow Balls, and lodged at Major Snowdens, who was not at home." "Breakfasted at Bladensburg, and passing through George Town dined in Alexandria and reached home (with Mr. Blair) about sunset, after an absence of four months and 14 days." *Washington's Diary*.

"Born to direct the destiny of empires, his character was as majestic as the events, to which it was attached, were illustrious."

*Robert Treat Paine, Jr. (Massachusetts).*

## SEPTEMBER TWENTY-SECOND.

**1776** On this day, by the order of Sir William Howe, Captain Nathan Hale was executed as a spy. This noble young patriot had undertaken the hazardous duty of entering the enemy's lines on Long Island. His motto was: "Every kind of service necessary for the public good becomes honorable, by being necessary, and that all service and any death is honorable for one's country." The city of New York has memorialized this noble sacrifice by placing the statue of Nathan Hale on the spot of his execution.

**1780** General Washington and the French officers having concluded their conference at Hartford, Rochambeau returned to Newport. "The next morning Washington and suite shook hands with the hospitable Wadsworth, the worthy Governor Trumbull, and numerous other friends, and, amid volleys of huzzas, started for the headquarters of the Army."

**1781** Washington and his generals experienced heavy storms off Cape Henry, but reached Williamsburg this day. He notes in his journal: "I settled most points with Admiral de Grasse to my satisfaction, except not obtaining an assurance of sending ships above York, and that he could not continue his fleet on this station longer than the first of November."

"'Neath the shade  
Of the Coliseum vaulting up to heaven,  
Palace and Pantheon and Monument  
Where half the wandering world as pilgrims  
come,

"They bow no knee to Cæsar, but compel  
The kingly Tiber to pronounce the name of  
Washington."

*Lydia H. Sigourney (Connecticut).*

## SEPTEMBER TWENTY-THIRD.

**1780** Major André, in disguise, and under the assumed name of "John Anderson," was captured near Tarrytown, by David Williams, John Paulding, and Isaac Van Wart, who refused all bribes offered by the unfortunate young officer. They conducted him to North Castle, the nearest post, and delivered him to Lieutenant-Colonel Jamison. The papers found concealed in his boots were in the handwriting of General Arnold, and gave all information necessary for the capture of West Point.

**1789** President Washington wrote from New York to the venerable Benjamin Franklin: "If to be venerated for benevolence, if to be esteemed for patriotism, if to be beloved for philanthropy, can gratify the human mind, you must have the pleasing consolation to know, that you have not lived in vain. And I flatter myself that it will not be ranked among the least grateful occurrences of your life to be assured, that, so long as I retain my memory, you will be thought on with respect, veneration and affection by your sincere friend." Their regard had remained unchanged since first they met on the frontier in 1755, when Colonel Washington was on Braddock's staff, and Colonial Deputy Postmaster Franklin arranged for transmission of letters and transportation for the army to the wilderness.

"The character of Washington stands alone among the great men of the world, as a pure man, a patriot, a wise statesman, a citizen, a ruler, a husbandman, a general and a christian."  
*Charles Lanman, "Dictionary of Congress."*

### SEPTEMBER TWENTY-FOURTH.

**1778** General Washington said to Lafayette: "Could I have conceived that my picture had been an object of your wishes, I should while Mr. Peale was in camp at Valley Forge have got him to have taken the best portrait of me he could, and presented it to you."

**1780** Returning from Hartford, when in the vicinity of Fishkill, Washington met the Marquis de la Luzerne, on his way to Newport to visit Rochambeau. The marquis persuaded him to remain over night at Fishkill instead of pushing on to West Point. Early the next morning, after examining the works, he set out for the Robinson House.

**1783** The Commander-in-chief and wife attended the annual commencement of Princeton College, held in the First Presbyterian Church. After the exercises the trustees selected Doctors Witherspoon, Rogers, and Johnes as a committee to request General Washington to sit for his portrait to Mr. Charles Willson Peale; to be placed in the hall, where a picture of George the Second had been destroyed by a cannon-ball. This full-length portrait, representing Washington at the Battle of Princeton, is still at the college.

"I had time to see this illustrious man, if not unique in our century. His handsome and majestic, while at the same time open countenance, perfectly reflects his moral qualities; he looks the hero, he is very cold; speaks little, but is courteous and frank. A shade of sadness overshadows his countenance, which is not unbecoming and gives him an interesting air."

*Count de Fersen, Aide-de-Camp to Rochambeau.*

### SEPTEMBER TWENTY-FIFTH.

**1774** Colonel Washington attended a Quaker meeting in the morning and St. Peter's in the afternoon. During the session of the first Congress the citizens of Philadelphia extended graceful hospitalities, and there was one famous dinner at the State House where five hundred guests were seated.

**1780** The Commander-in-chief arrived at Arnold's headquarters, and breakfasted with Mrs. Arnold, who said her husband had been called away. On receiving a letter from Arnold, Washington at once sent the following to Colonel Wade: "General Arnold is gone to the enemy. I have just received a line from him enclosing one to Mrs. Arnold dated on board the *Vulture*. From this circumstance, the command of the Garrison for the present devolves on you." His letter to Congress under this cruel provocation is notable as being calm, dignified, and entirely free from bitterness.

**1794** The President, in his proclamation regarding riots in western Pennsylvania, said: "I George Washington, President of the United States, in obedience to that high and irresistible duty consigned to me by the Constitution, to take care that the laws be faithfully executed; exhort all individuals, officers, and bodies of men to contemplate with abhorrence those crimes which produce this resort to military coercion."

"General Washington's conduct is above all praise. He has left a noble example to sovereigns and nations, present and to come. I beg you will mention both me and my sons to him in the most respectful terms possible. If I was not too old, I would go to Virginia to do him homage."

*Marquis of Lansdowne (England).*

**SEPTEMBER TWENTY-SIXTH.**

**1777** The Commander-in-chief issued to William Henry the following order: "You are hereby authorized to impress all the Blankets, Shoes, Stockings and other Articles of Clothing, that can be spared by the Inhabitants of the County of Lancaster, for the use of the Continental army, paying for the same at reasonable Rates or giving Certificates."

**1785** Washington wrote Thomas Jefferson: "I shall take great pleasure in showing M. Houdon every civility and attention in my power during his stay in this country; for I feel myself under personal obligations to you and Dr. Franklin (as the state of Virginia has done me the honor to direct a statue to be erected in my memory), for having placed the execution in the hands of so eminent an artist and so worthy a character."

**1789** This day three cabinet officers nominated by Washington were confirmed: Thomas Jefferson, of Virginia, Secretary of State; Samuel Osgood, of Massachusetts, Postmaster-General; and Edmund Randolph, of Virginia, Attorney-General. These appointments completed the first cabinet, and the selection gave general satisfaction.

"If I might venture to discriminate I would say that it was in the conflicts of opinion that succeeded the revolution that the greatness of Washington most displayed itself, for it was then that peril thickened in most subtle forms; that rival passions burned in intestine flames; that crises came demanding wider reaching and more constructive faculties than may be exhibited in war or higher heroism than may be avouched in battle.

*John W. Daniel (Virginia).*

**SEPTEMBER TWENTY-SEVENTH.**

**1780** General Washington ordered Colonel Jamison that every precaution should be taken to prevent Major André from making his escape. "I would not wish him to be treated with insult, but he is to be most closely and narrowly watched." André was imprisoned in Mabie's Tavern, in the village of Tappan, in charge of Colonel Tallmadge, who, like every one whom this British officer met, was greatly distressed by his inevitable fate.

**1782** The Commander-in-chief was greatly annoyed by the delay in fixing the cartel for the exchange of prisoners. Two days before the American commissioners had, in conformity with agreement, met the British board at Sir Guy Carleton's headquarters, but found that board had not been fully authorized.

**1795** From Mount Vernon, the President wrote to Edmund Randolph, late Secretary of State: "No man would rejoice more than I should to find, that the suspicions which have resulted from the intercepted letter were unequivocally and honorably removed." To Thomas Pickering, Secretary of War, he wrote: "I shall not whilst I have the honor to administer the Government, bring a man into any office of consequence knowingly, whose political tenets are adverse to the measures, which the general government are pursuing; for this, would be a sort of political suicide."

"While reaching the summit of great intellectual heights to dwell in the lofty confines of all, he concentrated into one inimitable whole the mental individualities of the giants who came within his sphere. He was the most wonderful combination of well balanced intellectual endowment that our country ever produced."

*Reuben T. Durrett (Kentucky).*

**SEPTEMBER TWENTY-EIGHTH.**

**1780** The Commander-in-chief returned to Tappan, and summoned a court of fourteen officers, General Greene presiding, "to examine into the case of Major André, Adjutant General of the British Army." The board consisted of Major-Generals Greene, Stirling, St. Clair, Lafayette, Howe, and Baron Steuben; Brigadier-Generals Parsons, James Clinton, King, Glover, Paterson, Hand, Huntington, and Stark. John Laurance was Judge-Advocate General.

**1781** "Having debarked all the Troops and their Baggage, marched and encamped them in front of the City, and having with some difficulty obtained horses and waggons sufficient to move our field Artillery, Intrenching Tools, and such other articles as were indispensably necessary, we commenced our march for the Investiture of the Enemy at York. The American Continental, and French troops formed one column on the left, the first in advance, the militia composed the right column. The line being formed, all the troops officers and men lay on their arms all night." *Washington's Diary.*

**1792** The President wished the Secretary of War "to keep the Army as compact as possible, for the purpose of disciplining and training the men to such kinds of manoeuvres and firings, as are proper for Indian warfare."

"Little remains to be said at this day touching the character of Washington. Upon the life of no personage in American history has fallen an afterglow so clear, so steadfast, and so beautiful. His memory has the felicity, rare among men, and rarest among great men, that it is sullied by no taint, obscured by no doubt, disturbed by no dispute."

*Edward John Phelps (Vermont).*

**SEPTEMBER TWENTY-NINTH.**

**1780** The board of general officers appointed by General Washington rendered a report that "Major André, Adjutant General of the British Army, ought to be considered as a Spy from the Enemy, and that agreeable to the Law and usage of Nations, it is their opinion he ought to suffer death." This verdict was promptly approved by the Commander-in-chief.

**1781** "Spent this day in reconnoitering the enemy's position, & determining upon a plan of attack and approach which must be done without the assistance of shipping above the Town as the Admiral declined hazarding any vessels on that station." *Washington's Diary.*

**1794** On the eve of setting out for Carlisle, to inspect the troops, Washington wrote his manager at Mount Vernon "to give his sister, Mrs. Lewis a mule, if she sends for one. Let it be a broke one, and good, but not the very best." With the militia ordered out were five of his nephews, two officers and three privates,—namely, Major George Lewis, commandant; Major Lawrence Lewis, aide to General Morgan; Howell Lewis, private; and Samuel and Lawrence Washington, light-horsemen.

"He seemed instinctively to look through men and know the extent of their capacity to understand, and their abilities. From this it came that the heads of departments through his advice were filled with such extraordinary integrity and talent for exertion, and this was one circumstance which effectually conduced to America's triumph."

*Nathan Strong, D. D. (Connecticut).*

## SEPTEMBER THIRTIETH.

1757 Colonel Washington said in a letter to his mother: "In answer to my brother Charles Marriage I shall observe, that if there is no other objection than the one you mention, it may soon be removed: and that Mrs. Thornton if she believes I am capable of taking these ungenerous advantages, knows little of the principles which govern my conduct. However I suppose Mrs. Thornton is actuated by prudent motives and therefore would be safe. If she will get any Instrument of writing drawn I will sign it, provided it does not effect me in other respects than her daughter's fortune, if my brother dies under age."

1779 From West Point, Washington wrote Lafayette: "I have had great pleasure in the visit which the Chevalier de la Luzerne, and Monsieur Marbois did me the honor to make at this camp; for both of whom I have imbibed the most favorable impressions. The Chevalier till he had announced himself to Congress did not choose to be received in his public character."

1781 "The enemy abandoned all their exterior works & the position they had taken without the Town, & retired within their Interior works of defence in the course of last night — immediately upon which we possessed them & made those on our left very serviceable to us. We also began two enclosed works on the right of Pidgeon Hill — between that & the ravine above More's Mill." *Washington's Diary.*

"Immediately anterior to the Revolution of Independence, two great doctrines were developed, both in Europe and America, supported and elaborated by the teachings of many great men. These doctrines related to the principles of liberty as the purpose of government, and the complete differentiation of its triune functions as executive, legislative and judicial departments. At this time these doctrines were not embodied in the constitution of any great nation, but existed only as theories. The opportunity came for their embodiment by the declaration of independence. Had they been left in the custody of doctrinaires, however eloquent, they would have met with the same fate that befel them in the French revolution, where they were soon overwhelmed by despotism. What was needed was a man who could fully grasp the principles and apply them to concrete facts in constructive statesmanship. Washington was this o'ertowering genius." *Major John W. Powell (New York).*









H. HUBERT NICHOLS.

THE MOORE HOUSE, WHERE WERE DRAWN, OCTOBER 18, 1781, THE "ARTICLES OF CAPITULATION  
OF THE POSTS OF YORK AND GLOUCESTER."



## OCTOBER FIRST.

**1780** The Commander-in-chief refused Major André's request that he might die the death of a soldier,—*i. e.*, be shot,—saying it was impossible to grant it, though "he was more unfortunate than criminal." Washington also declined to receive a commission sent under flag of truce by Sir Henry Clinton to negotiate for the life of André. There is a legend that Mrs. Roger Morris—*née* Mary Philipse—also pleaded for a pardon. Though deeply distressed, Washington acted upon the findings of the court, and issued the order, "that Major André be executed to-morrow at 12 o'clock precisely; a Battalion of 80 Files from each wing to attend the Execution." It was thought the only price of André's life was the relinquishment of Arnold, which the British could not consent to.

**1781** General Washington, Colonel Duportail, and several engineers, with an advance-guard of fifty men, reconnoitered this afternoon within three hundred yards of the enemy's main works, "which is the town of York," and deliberately studied their distribution of forces.

**1789** "The following company dined here to-day, viz.: Mr. Reed of the Senate, Col<sup>o</sup> Bland and Mr. Madison of the House of Representatives, Mr. Osgood and his lady, Col. Duer, his lady and Miss Brown, Col<sup>o</sup> Lewis Morris and lady, lady Christian Griffin and her daughter, and Judge Duane and Mrs. [General Nathaniel] Greene. Dispatched many of the Com<sup>ns</sup> for the Judiciary—Judges, Marshals, and Attorneys this day, with the Acts." *Washington's Diary*.

**1794** President Washington, accompanied by several of his cabinet, left for Philadelphia, for the scene of the whisky riots. Passing through Reading on the 3d, he reached the capital of Pennsylvania.

"Land of the West! though passing brief the  
record of thine age,  
Thou hast a name that darkens all on his-  
tory's wide page!  
Let all the blast of fame ring out—thine  
shall be loudest far;  
Let others boast their satellites—thou art a  
planet star.

"Thou hast a name whose characters of light  
shall ne'er depart;  
'T is stamped upon the dullest brain, and  
warms the coldest heart;  
A war-cry fit for any land where Freedom's  
to be won:  
Land of the West! it stands alone—it is thy  
Washington."

*Eliza Cook (England).*

## OCTOBER SECOND.

**1775** "Any officer, non-commissioned officer, or soldier, who shall hereafter be detected playing at toss-up, pitch, and hustle, or any other games of chance, in or near the camp or villages bordering on the encampments shall without delay be confined and punished for disobedience of orders. The General does not mean by the above to discourage sports of exercise or recreation, he only means to discountenance and punish gaming." *Orderly Book (Cambridge).*

**1780** The execution of Major André took place at the time and in the manner determined. Dr. Thatcher says: "Not a murmur or a sigh ever escaped him and the civilities and attentions bestowed on him were politely acknowledged. . . . The fatal hour having arrived almost all our general and Field officers, excepting his Excellency and his staff were present on horseback; melancholy and gloom pervaded all ranks, and the scene was affectingly awful."

**1782** Washington, writing to General Lincoln, Secretary of War, of the discontent of the army, said: "While in the field, I think it may be kept from breaking out into acts of outrage; but when we retire into Winter-quarters, unless the storm is previously dissipated, I cannot be at ease respecting the consequences. It is high time for a peace."

"The talents and the great actions of General Washington have secured to him, in the eyes of all Europe, the truly sublime title of the 'Liberator of America.'"

*Count d'Estaing (France).*

## OCTOBER THIRD.

**1775** The court martial ordered by General Washington at Cambridge to consider the charges against Benjamin Church, Medical Director-General (the first traitor), met and rendered an opinion the following day. The findings of the court were submitted by the General to Congress. The Commander-in-chief requested that a powerful Oneida chief, accompanied by the missionary Rev. Samuel Kirkland, be allowed to attend the court martial, adding: "I have prepared a present for him on his return."

**1789** President Washington issued, through the "Philadelphia News," the first national thanksgiving proclamation: "That Thursday, November 26th, be devoted by the people of the states to the service of that, Great and Glorious Being, who is the beneficent author of all the good that is, or will be." In his diary he wrote: "Sat to Mr. Rammage near two hours to-day, who was drawing a miniature picture of me for Mrs. Washington." This exquisite miniature has been recently placed before the public, having been lost sight of for nearly a century. It is set to be worn as a locket in a dainty gold case with the monogram G. W. and a lock "of my dear Lady's hair" in the back.

"I should be ashamed of my country if in further speaking of what Washington has done for the sentiment of his country, it was necessary to make any excuse for a reference to his constant love and fond reverence, as boy and man, for his mother. The filial love is an attribute of American manhood, a badge which invites our trust and confidence, and an indispensable element of American greatness."

*Grover Cleveland, President of the United States.*

**OCTOBER FOURTH.**

**1777** The Battle of Germantown was fought this day—the British under Howe; the Continentals led by Washington. The engagement lasted three hours, and resulted in disaster to the Americans, with a loss of 1000 men. The conflict was chiefly around the Chew House, in which five companies of British were well protected. Washington wrote to Congress: “In the midst of the most promising appearances, when everything gave the most flattering hopes of victory, the troops began suddenly to retreat, and entirely left the field, in spite of every effort that could be made to rally them.”

**1778** Washington wrote to Gouverneur Morris: “Can we carry on the war much longer? Certainly not, unless some measures can be devised and speedily executed to restore the credit of our currency, restrain extortion and punish forestallers. Without these can be effected, what funds can stand the present expenses of the Army and what officer can bear the weight of prices that every necessary article is now got to? A Rat in the shape of a horse is not to be bought for less than £200.”

**1794** President Washington spent the night and morning at Harrisburg, the guest of Senator William Maclay, at the old Harris Mansion. He received and answered an address from the Burghers, and gathered all possible information regarding the situation in the insubordinate districts. “He forded the Susquehannah in a coach, driving it himself.”

“Well pleased, I give each anxious care  
To plotting knaves and coward fools,

“No civil strife, or foreign wars I fear,  
While Washington our conq’ring army rules.”  
*John Parke (Delaware).*

**OCTOBER FIFTH.**

**1775** The first action of Congress upon naval matters was a resolution to instruct the Commander-in-chief to equip one or more merchantmen for the purpose of capturing “two North Country brigs of no force known,” which were reported to have sailed with supplies for Canada. The governments of Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Massachusetts Bay several months previous had responded to Washington’s demands and equipped small crafts.

**1780** Washington wrote to General Cadwalader: “We have no magazines, nor money to form them; and in a little time we shall have no men, if we had money to pay them. We have lived upon expedients till we can live no longer. In a word, the history of the war is a history of false hopes and temporary devices, instead of system and economy.”

**1782** Congress ordered Major-General Gates to rejoin the army, and take such command “as the Commander-in-chief shall direct.” He this day reported to Washington at Verplanck’s Point; it was their first meeting since the disastrous Battle of Camden. The interview excited the curiosity of the officers of the French and Continental armies, and all admired the courage with which Gates bore his misfortunes, and the remarkable freedom from restraint of both gentlemen.

“Nor is the greatness of Washington to be attributed in any degree to that good fortune to which so many military commanders have owed their fame and success. His whole life was one of constant difficulty and frequent disappointments.”  
*Cyrus R. Edmonds (England).*

## OCTOBER SIXTH.

**1770** Colonel Washington, with Dr. Craik and three negroes, began a journey of nine weeks to the Ohio. It was for the purpose of locating lands granted by the colony to the officers and soldiers who had served against the French and Indians. He was constantly urging the Executive of Virginia to complete the grant and fulfil the promises of the colony.

**1777** The stragglers from the field of Germantown reached the encampment at Pennybackers Mills. The following morning the Commander-in-chief received a committee of Quakers appointed at the yearly meeting of Friends in Philadelphia, for the purpose of laying before "William Howe, General of the British Army and George Washington, General of the American Army," their testimony against war, and explaining their position as noncombatants. To prevent the peacemakers from doing mischief, Washington sent them under guard to Pottsville for a few days.

**1781** "Before Morning the Trenches were in such forwardness as to cover the men from the enemy's fire. The work was executed with so much secrecy and despatch that the enemy were, I believe, totally ignorant of our labor till the light of the Morning discovered it to them." *Washington's Diary*.

"The day is broke, my boys, push on!  
And follow, follow Washington.

'T is he that leads the way, my boys,  
'T is he that leads the way.

"When he commands, we will obey,  
Through rain or sun, by night or day,  
Determined to be free, my boys,  
Determined to be free."

*Revolutionary Song (1781).*

## OCTOBER SEVENTH.

**1780** "The main body of the army, the forage about Orangetown and the lower country being exhausted, moved this morning, and is now arrived here [Paramus]. We have had a cold, wet and tedious march, on account of the feeble state of our Cattle, and have not a drop of rum to give the troops." *Washington to Congress*.

**1785** Jean Antoine Houdon, the eminent French sculptor, made a life-cast of Washington's head, which he left at Mount Vernon. This plaster, which happily was not taken to France, must forever remain undisputed the head of Washington. The beautiful portrait on the domestic letter-stamp is after Houdon. From molds, when in America, the artist produced the head from which he modeled the marble statue at Richmond and that plaster bust is now in the "Salle Houdon," Louvre, Paris.

**1837** The remains of George Washington and Martha, his wife, were removed from the old tomb at Mount Vernon and placed in white marble sarcophagi in the vault erected on the spot selected by Washington and "built of brick," as directed in his will. On the centenary of his birth, Congress the second time requested that his body be placed in the crypt under the Capitol which was provided and intended for the resting-place of the Father of His Country.

"Sweet be thy slumbers, chief of Vernon. Thy soul was like the beam of heaven, thine arm was like a falling tower, thy deeds were mighty deeds of heroes. To thy fame thy country shall raise a stone on high to speak to future times with its grey head of moss."

*Rev. John Blair Linn, A. M. (Pennsylvania.)*

### OCTOBER EIGHTH.

**1760** Colonel Washington, at Williamsburg, Va., gave a theater-party, his tickets amounting to seven pounds, eleven shillings, and three pence. Throughout his career he was a great lover of amusements and found frequent relaxation at the theater.

**1778** General Washington, from headquarters, Colonel John Brinkerhoff's residence, Fishkill, visited the hospital at the "Robinson House," inquiring minutely into the condition of the sick and wounded. His manner and sympathy were very comforting to the inmates, and his visit was unannounced and without ceremony, that he might better judge of its management. There was a rumor that the enemy had determined to leave the city of New York, but Washington did not think they would venture to attack the French fleet at Boston, under Count d'Estaing, as at this advanced season there was great danger in taking a fleet round Cape Cod.

**1785** Washington said: "The Agricultural Society, lately established in Philadelphia, promises extensive usefulness, if it is prosecuted with spirit. I wish most sincerely that every State in the Union would institute similar ones; and that these societies would correspond fully and freely with each other and communicate all useful discoveries founded on practice, with a due attention to climate, soil and seasons, to the public."

"The birthday of Washington shall be an eternal festival wherever a free man speaks the English tongue."  
*William Charles Macready (England).*

### OCTOBER NINTH.

**1774** Washington wrote Captain Mackenzie, who had served under him during the French war, then in the British army at Boston: "Permit me with the freedom of a friend, to express my sorrow that fortune should place you in a service, that must fix curses to the latest posterity upon the contrivers, and, if success (which, by the by, is impossible) accompanies it, execrations upon all those, who have been instrumental in the execution."

**1777** The army moved from Pennybackers Mills and camped near the Baptist meeting-house in Montgomery township. General Francis Nash, of North Carolina, who fell at Germantown, was buried with military honors in the grounds of the church. His last words were: "From the first dawn of the Revolution, I have been on the side of Liberty and my country." The Commander-in-chief requested "All officers whose circumstances will admit of it, will attend and pay their respects to a brave man who died in defense of his country."

**1781** "Two or three of our batteries being now prepared to open on the town, his Excellency, George Washington, put the match to the first gun, and a furious discharge of cannon and mortars immediately followed, and Earl Cornwallis has received his first Salutation."

"His unaffected piety, his uncommon virtues have caused him to be revered in every corner of the earth, and ranked him among the best of generals, the best of statesmen, the best of men."  
*John Andrews, D. D. (Maryland.)*

## OCTOBER TENTH.

**1784** Writing to Governor Benjamin Harrison upon the importance of internal improvements, Washington urged him to stimulate the Assembly to promote inland navigation, and open communication between the Potomac, the James, and the northwestern rivers and lakes. He foresaw and again predicted the mingling of the waters of Lake Erie and the Hudson through the means of a canal.

**1787** Washington said: "The Constitution that is submitted, is not free from imperfections, but there is as few radical defects in it as could well be expected, considering the heterogenous mass of which the Convention was composed and the diversity of interests that are to be attended to."

**1789** "I set off about 9 o'clock in my barge to visit Mr. Prince's fruit gardens and shrubberies at Flushing on Long Island. The shrubs were trifling and the flowers not numerous. The inhabitants of this place showed us what respect they could, by making the best use of one cannon to salute. On our return, we stopped at the seats of General and Mr. Gouverneur Morris, and viewed a barn, of which I have heard the latter speak much, belonging to his farm, but it was not of a construction to strike my fancy, nor did the conveniences of it at all answer their cost." *Washington's Diary*.

"Let us then, discarding all inferior strife, hold up to our children the example of Washington as the symbol, not merely of wisdom, but of purity and truth."

*Charles Francis Adams (Massachusetts).*

## OCTOBER ELEVENTH.

**1755** Colonel Washington, from Winchester, wrote to Governor Dinwiddie of his many perplexities in organizing the defense of the frontier. "No orders are obeyed, but what a party of soldiers, or my own drawn sword enforces; without this a single horse, for the most urgent occasion cannot be had. However I have given up none, where his Majesty's service requires the contrary, nor will I do it unless they execute what they threaten, 'to blow out my brains.'"

**1786** "Allowed all my People to go to the races in Alexandria on one of three days as best comported with their respective businesses; leaving careful persons on the plantations." *Washington's Diary*.

**1794** The President informed the Secretary of State that he had determined to remain at Carlisle, Pa., where he was the guest of Colonel Ephraim Blaine, until he saw the troops in motion, and he believed the insurgents were scared. It was rumored that while they scorned the militia, they greatly dreaded Daniel Morgan and his Virginia woodsmen. This officer was told "to impress upon the army that they were agents of civil power." During his stay Washington reviewed the troops, became familiar with the situation, and entertained at dinner the Governors of Pennsylvania and New Jersey with their families.

"Your influence over your countrymen, in public affairs, and in the many services and virtues which gave it to you, placed and maintained you upon that mighty eminence, from which the man who happens to be born every three or four hundred years, looks down with lofty pride and tranquillity upon kings and great dignitaries. Individuals and nations look up with respect and admiration; and regret, for the happiness and honor of humanity, he does not command the whole world."

*Marquis de la Rouarie (France).*



OCTOBER TWELFTH.

**1781** "Began our second parallel within 300 yards of the enemys lines and got it so well advanced in the course of the night as to cover the men before morning. I cannot but acknowledge the infinite obligations I am under to His Excellency, the Count de Rochambeau, the Marquis St. Simon, and the other general officers, for the assistance which they afford me. The experience of many of those gentlemen, in the business before us, is of the utmost advantage in the present operation. They seem actuated by one spirit, that of supporting the honor of the allied arms, and pushing their approaches with the utmost vigor." *Washington's Diary.*

**1783** Washington began to feel restive under delays, as is indicated in this extract from a letter to Marquis de Chastellux: "Having the appearance, and indeed the enjoyment of peace, without a final declaration of it, I, who am only waiting for the ceremonials, or till the British forces shall have taken leave of New York, am placed in an awkward and disagreeable situation, it being my anxious desire to quit the walks of public life, and under the shadow of my own vine and my own fig tree to seek that relaxation, which a mind, that has been constantly upon the stretch for more than eight years, stands so much in need of."

"His sword a flame before the eye  
Of red and furious handed Mars.

"His speech a rocket arching high  
And blossoming to fadeless stars."  
*John Henry Boner (South Carolina).*

OCTOBER THIRTEENTH.

**1780** General Washington said: "The want of provisions is a clog to our operations in every quarter. We have several times, in the course of this campaign, been without either Bread or Meat and have never had more than four or five days before hand." He wrote to Colonel Laurens, from Preakness: "But for the egregious folly or bewildered conception, of Lieutenant-Colonel Jameson, who seemed lost in astonishment, and not to have known what he was doing, I should undoubtedly have got Arnold. André has met his fate, and with that fortitude, which was to be expected from an accomplished man and gallant officer."

**1789** Congress having adjourned, President Washington resolved, after consulting his cabinet, to make a tour through the Northeastern States. He received at the Executive residence, New York, "a delegation of the people called Quakers," and spoke to them at length upon religious freedom in this country.

**1792** The corner-stone of the Executive Mansion, familiarly called "The White House," was laid with masonic and civic ceremonies upon the site selected by Washington. It is said to have been so called in compliment to Mrs. Washington—the name of her home on the Pamunkey River.

"White peaks of mountains living in the blue  
And calm cathedral of the sky,  
Whose constellations walk in saintly hue,  
A Sabbath silence speaking thoughts most  
high.

"Such grandeur shall be theirs of white,  
Silent, yet speaking to each age as born  
Of one whose manhood grows from height to  
height,  
His fame a bright star in our country's morn."  
*James B. Cowdin.*

## OCTOBER FOURTEENTH.

**1774** Colonel Washington approved of the "Declaration of Colonial Rights," and, later, the "Address to the King," "Address to the People of Canada," and the "Address to the People of Great Britain." There is no record that he either spoke upon or drafted these protests, which immediately commanded the admiration of the world, and remain monuments of the wisdom and statesmanship of the first Colonial Congress.

**1781** The enemy's advance works were taken at Yorktown—the left by the French under Baron Vioménil, and the right by the American Light Infantry under Marquis de Lafayette. The Commander-in-chief said: "The bravery displayed by the attacking troops was emulous and praiseworthy. Few cases have exhibited stronger proofs of Intrepidity, coolness and firmness than were shown upon this occasion."

**1789** "Wrote several letters to France, and about 7 o'clock in the afternoon made an informal visit with Mrs. Washington to the Count de Moustier and Madame de Bréhan, to take leave of them. Into the hands of the former I committed these letters, viz: to the Count d'Estaing, Count de Rochambeau, the Marq's de la Fayette and the Marq's de la Rouirie." *Washington's Diary.*

"I have no need to speak of General Washington's composure; it is well known, but this great man is a thousand times more noble at the head of his army than at any other time."  
*Baron Cromot du Bourg (France).*

## OCTOBER FIFTEENTH.

**1777** General Washington received the celebrated Duché letter,—brought to him by Mrs. Hugh Ferguson, of Graham Park,—which he at once transmitted to Congress. The Orderly Book of this date says: "The General has the respected pleasure of informing the Army of the success of the troops under the command of General Gates over General Burgoyne's army on the 7th. The second battle of Stillwater."

**1785** "After candles were lighted George Aug. Washington and Frances Bassett were married by Mr. Grayson." The day before, the chariot went up to Alexandria "for Miss Salley Ramsay & Miss Kitty Washington to be Bridesmaids," and "Mr. Burwell Bassett & Mr. George Washington went to the Clerks office and thence to Colo Masons for a License & returned to dinner having accomplished their business." The sculptor Houdon was at this wedding. These events are noted in Washington's diary.

**1789** President Washington, in his coach, accompanied by Major Jackson and Tobias Lear, his secretaries, and a modest retinue, set out from New York on his tour through the Northeastern States. He was escorted beyond the city limits by Chief Justice Jay, Secretary Hamilton, and General Knox. He reached Rye that evening, staying overnight at Mrs. Haviland's, "a very neat and decent Inn."

"He made no mistakes; there are no black spots on his reputation. For sound judgment, integrity, symmetry and commanding dignity of character he has no superior among great men. He feared God and loved righteousness. His sole ambition, his highest happiness was to do his duty and to serve his country."

*Philip Schaff, D. D., LL. D. (Switzerland).*





PLASTER CAST OF WASHINGTON.

By Houdon.

**OCTOBER SIXTEENTH.**

**1785** Washington wrote from Mount Vernon thanking Mr. A. Donaldson for "the model of your Hippopotamus." This was a machine for lifting fertilizing mud from the bottoms of rivers, which Washington was desirous of experimenting with on the Potomac. His attention had been called to this dredging-machine by Mr. Hollingshead of Maryland, and he had become much interested in its probable usefulness.

**1789** "Destructive evidence of British cruelty are yet visible both in Norwalk and Fairfield as there are chimneys of many burnt houses standing in them yet. The principal export from Norwalk and Fairfield is Horses and Cattle, salted Beef and Pork, Lumber and Indian Corn and in a small degree Wheat and Flour." *Washington's Diary.*

**1792** "Let the hands at the Mansion House grub well, and perfectly prepare the old clover lot, preparatory for grass, with which it is to be laid down. When I say grub well, I mean that everything which is not to remain as trees, should be taken up by the roots." *Washington to his manager.*

"George, on thy virtues often have I dwelt,  
And still the theme is grateful to mine ear;  
Thy gold let chemists ten times over melt,  
From dross and base alloy they'll find it  
clear.

"Yet thou'rt a man—although, perhaps, the  
first;  
But man at best is but a being frail;  
And since with error human nature's cursed,  
I marvel not that thou shouldst sometimes  
fail." *Philip Freneau (New Jersey).*

**OCTOBER SEVENTEENTH.**

**1781** "At ten o'clock the enemy beat a parley, and Lord Cornwallis proposed a cessation of hostilities for 24 hours, that the commissioners might meet at the house of a Mr. Moore (in the rear of our first parallel) to settle terms for the surrender of the posts of York and Gloucester." *Washington's Diary.*

**1789** President Washington reached New Haven, and remained until Monday morning. He says: "I received the compliment of a visit from the Governor, Mr. Huntington, the Lieutenant-Governor, Mr. Wolcott, and the Mayor, Mr. Roger Sherman. The city of New Haven occupies a good deal of ground, but is thinly, though regularly laid out and built. The number of Souls in it are said to be about 4,000. There is an Episcopal Church, and 3 Congregational Meeting-Houses, and a College, in which there are at this time about 120 Students under auspices of Doct'r Styles."

**1794** At Cumberland, Md., the President reviewed the militia under General Lee. Here on the uplands of the Alleghanies forty years before as a Colonial officer he had disciplined and encouraged his pioneer soldiers to meet the wily savage foe; here in active service and command he had obtained his military education.

"Washington's consistency was eminent. He united the soldier, the statesman, and the citizen. No act belonged to one part of his character while it did not agree with the whole. No plea in one profession excused the manners in another. His character was equally good, whether he directed the Soldier, honored the Laws, or blessed a Citizen."

*William Bently (Massachusetts, 1799).*

## OCTOBER EIGHTEENTH.

**1776** The Commander-in-chief selected the Polish Count Thaddeus Kosciuszko "Engineer of Continental Service," with the rank of colonel, for which position he was well equipped, having graduated at the military colleges of Warsaw and Versailles. Washington asked him when he reached Cambridge what he could do. He replied: "Try me; I am ready to do anything." Congress, on the recommendation of Washington seven years later, made him brigadier-general, "for long, faithful and honorable service in the American Army."

**1777** From Wentz House, Worcester, Pa., Washington thus announced to his troops the surrender of Burgoyne at Saratoga on the 14th: "Let every face brighten and every heart expand with grateful joy and praise to the Supreme Disposer of all events, who has granted us this signal success." A service of thanksgiving was ordered at five o'clock.

**1781** Two American commissioners, Colonel Laurens and Viscount de Noailles, appointed by General Washington, and Colonel Dundas and Major Ross, representing Lord Cornwallis, spent the day drafting "Articles of Capitulation" at the Moore House, Temple Farm, Yorktown. The old house is still standing.

"My brave fellows, let no sensation of satisfaction for the triumphs you have gained induce you to insult your fallen enemy. Let no shouting, no clamorous huzzahing, increase their mortification. Posterity will buzzah for us."

*Washington's address to his troops at the surrender of Yorktown.*

## OCTOBER NINETEENTH.

**1781** "In the morning early, I had them [the articles of surrender] copied and sent word to Cornwallis that I expected to have them signed at eleven o'clock and the Garrison would march out at two o'clock, both of which was accordingly done." At twelve o'clock, the Americans on the right, the French on the left, formed a line which extended over a mile. The captured garrison filed out between the two silent armies with shouldered arms, colors cased, and drums beating a British march, an adaptation of that popular air, "The World is Turned Upside Down." General O'Hara, representing Lord Cornwallis, who was too ill to appear, surrendered his sword to Major-General Lincoln, who conducted the British troops to a large field, where their arms were stacked.

**1789** President Washington breakfasted at Wallingford, Conn. He said: "At this place we see the white mulberry growing, raised from the seed, to feed the silk-worm. We also saw samples of lustring (exceedingly good) which had been manufactured from the cocoon raised in this town, and silk thread very fine. This, except the weaving is the work of private families, without interference with other business, and is likely to turn out a beneficial amusement."

"Washington is so great a figure of an heroic patriot that one may not venture to touch upon his glorious memory without deep reflection, and especially when belonging to the country where had lived in ancient times the great original of the American Pericles."

*Alexander Rizo Rangabé (Greece).*

**OCTOBER TWENTIETH.**

**1780** General Washington approved of Colonel Henry Lee's plan for the capture of Benedict Arnold, then in New York, and agreed to give the stated reward if he be secured alive. A brave non-commissioned officer, Sergeant-Major John Champs, of Lee's Legion, deserted for that purpose, but the project failed owing to Arnold's suddenly changing his quarters. Sergeant Champs came near losing his life when deserting.

**1781** The Commander-in-chief, at Yorktown, in a general order, congratulated the officers and men of his army upon "the glorious event of yesterday." He paroled the British officers, provided subsistence for prisoners, and ordered a service of thanksgiving conducted by all chaplains in the army.

**1789** President Washington, at Hartford, examined with interest the woolen manufactures. He says: "Their broad cloth's are not of the first quality as yet, but they are good; as are their coatings, cassimeres, serges, and everlastings. Of the first, that is broadcloth, I ordered a suit to be sent to me at New York, and of the latter a whole piece to make breeches for my servants." In January he notes that at Mrs. Washington's levee, "I was dressed in a suit of clothes made at the woolen manufactory at Hartford, as the buttons also were."

"He never trifled away his moments, but redeemed his time with a vigilance which was not less remarkable than the other traits in his extraordinary character."

*Samuel Greene Arnold (Rhode Island).*

**OCTOBER TWENTY-FIRST.**

**1781** "The prisoners began their march [to Winchester, Virginia, Fort Frederick, and Frederickstown, Maryland], and I set out for the Fleet to pay my respects and offer my thanks to the Admiral for his important services." *Washington's Diary*. Washington wrote Congress: "Nothing could equal the zeal of our allies, but the emulating spirit of the American officers, whose ardor would not suffer their exertions to be exceeded."

**1789** The President, at Springfield, Mass., examined the Continental stores. He remarks: "There is great equality in the people of this State. Few or no opulent men and no poor ones. Great similitude in their buildings." The following day, at Worcester, he was requested to leave his coach and ride through the town on horseback, so that he might be better seen by the enthusiastic people.

**1794** On leaving Bedford, Pa., the President complimented Henry Lee, commander-in-chief of the militia: "Convey to my fellow citizens in arms my warm acknowledgments for the readiness, with which they have seconded me in the most delicate and momentous duty the chief magistrate of a free people can have to perform."

"Ah, hero of our younger race!  
Great builder of a temple new!  
Ruler, who sought no lordly place!  
Warrior, who sheathed the sword he drew!

"Father and leader, prophet sure  
Whose will in vast works shall endure,  
How shall we praise him on this day of days,  
Great son of fame who has no need of praise?"  
*Harriet Monroe (Illinois, at Chicago, 1892).*

**OCTOBER TWENTY-SECOND.**

**1780** Washington wrote to General Greene: "Congress having been pleased to authorize me to appoint an officer to the command of the Southern army, in the room of Major-General Gates, till an inquiry can be had into his conduct as therein directed, I have thought proper to choose you for that purpose."

**1782** The French allies crossed the Hudson at West Point, leaving for Boston, to embark early in December for the West Indies. There were sad partings between these veterans who had learned to respect and love one another. Together they had endured the fatigue of long marches and stood side by side at Yorktown. Let every American heart cherish the memory of the French who fought for us, and the unfortunate King and Queen our truest friends.

**1786** General Washington offered to adopt his namesake, the eldest son of General Greene, and "to give him as good an education as this country, (I mean North America), will afford; and will bring him up to either of the genteel professions that his friends may choose, or his own inclination may lead him to pursue; at my own cost and charge."

"Washington in short was always and everywhere great. Great in peace, as he was great in war. Great in council as he was great in action. In every circumstance, every department, civil or military, he was great, and as hath been observed, he was good as he was great. Rome had her Cæsar, Greece her Alexander, Sweden her Charles XII.; but we, and of this as our superior glory we will ever boast; We have had our Washington."

*Colonel Isaac Roberdeau (France).*

**OCTOBER TWENTY-THIRD.**

**1776** The Commander-in-chief took possession of Miller's House, White Plains. Since the evacuation of Long Island the army had suffered greatly from fevers and lack of comforts, and the General was anxious to see them settled in winter quarters. In the two days' march from Harlem he was continuously in the saddle, superintending the selection of camps and detailing squads to begin works of defense.

**1786** Washington entertained at Mount Vernon William Drayton and Ralph Izard, from South Carolina. He gave them a most interesting and exhaustive account of his acquaintance with Arnold, which Tobias Lear preserved in his journal, showing that the slightest suspicion of Arnold's integrity had never entered Washington's mind.

**1793** On account of yellow fever, the President decided not to take his family to Philadelphia. He wrote to the Attorney-General: "All idea of furnishing and keeping a house myself, being unprovided with servants, or means of any sort, ought to be banished entirely, and some rooms, even in a tavern (if I could be retired in them,) taken in preference."

"It was reserved for Washington, in the midst of civil war, in every emergency, both in adverse and prosperous circumstances, to practice the great principles of republics; a subordination of the military to the civil authority, and finally to seize the first opportunity that offered to lay his wreaths and his power on the altar of an emancipated country."

*James Barbour (Virginia).*



### OCTOBER TWENTY-FOURTH.

**1775** The Commander-in-chief notified Congress of the threats against all ports, and the destruction of Falmouth, "an outrage exceeding in barbarity and cruelty every hostile act practiced among civilized nations." "Signed contract with one John Fisk for a supply of powder, not exceeding twenty tons, at four shillings a pound; to be delivered at Newburyport or some convenient post to Cambridge." *Washington's Diary.*

**1789** President Washington was received at Cambridge with distinguished honors. He reviewed a body of militia on the commons, from the spot where, fourteen years before, he had first seen the Continental army. Lieutenant-Governor Samuel Adams, with the Executive Council of Massachusetts, the City Government, and many distinguished gentlemen, met and welcomed him to Boston. Fifty civic societies followed in his train, and his military escort was a thousand strong, commanded by General Brooks. He was mounted on a white horse, and passed under a triumphal arch bearing the inscription, "The man who unites all hearts." Shouts, smiles, and tears greeted him through the streets of the city he had delivered.

"Modern history has not so spotless a character to commemorate. It is the highest glory of England to have given birth, even amid Transatlantic wilds, to such a man; and if she cannot number him among those who have extended her provinces or augmented her dominions, she may at least feel a legitimate pride in the victories which he achieved, and the great qualities he exhibited in the contest with herself."

*Sir Archibald Alison (England).*

### OCTOBER TWENTY-FIFTH.

**1775** The Commander-in-chief refused to allow Major Christopher French, a paroled prisoner, the privilege of wearing his sword, but said: "I wish you all the happiness consistent with your situation, and while the inhabitants of America treat you with humanity and kindness I trust you will make a suitable return. It is not grateful to me to hear respectable citizens of any town being treated with incivility or contempt."

**1791** President Washington delivered his second annual address, in which he said: "The rapid subscriptions to the Bank of the United States, which completed the sum allowed to be subscribed in a single day, is among the striking and pleasing evidences which present themselves, not only of confidence in the government, but of resource in the community. The completion of the census of the inhabitants will give you the pleasing assurance that the present population of the United States borders on four millions of persons."

**1797** Washington wrote to General Thaddeus Kosciuszko, regretting the state of his health, and that his suffering would not permit him to visit Mount Vernon. In regard to that general's appeal to Congress, he said: "I am sure your claims upon the justice and feelings of this country will meet no delay."

"It is a grateful fact to Americans, that under searching criticism the ability and purity of Washington and the nobility of his character stand unimpeached. The details of his inmost life and the record of his daily doings have only served as welcome shadows and light needful to mark him as one touched lightly with human frailties and weaknesses. It may be questioned whether any other figure in history, once surrounded by a heroic and poetic glow, has lost so small a moiety of dignity and honor."

*Adolphus Washington Greely (Massachusetts).*

## OCTOBER TWENTY-SIXTH.

**1778** The Commander-in-chief, from Fredericksburg, N. Y., wrote to Lieutenant-Colonel Aaron Burr, saying, "You carried your ideas of delicacy too far in proposing to drop your pay while the recovery of your health necessarily requires your absence from the army."

**1781** At Williamsburg, Va., the Commander-in-chief with distinguished courtesy entertained Lord Cornwallis at dinner. In toasting his guest he assured the defeated general that, "England would yet have reason to be proud of so gallant an officer." In reply Lord Cornwallis said: "When the illustrious part that your Excellency has borne in this long and arduous contest becomes a matter of history, fame will gather your brightest laurels rather from the banks of the Delaware than from those of the Chesapeake."

**1789** The President received John Hancock, Governor of Massachusetts, in his chambers at Boston, having most peremptorily refused to make the first visit of ceremony, never for a moment losing sight of the courtesy due the executive head of a nation from the executive head of a State.

"General Washington's self-moderation is well known to the world already. It is a remarkable circumstance, which redounds to his eternal honor, that while President of the United States he appointed not one of his own relations to an office of trust or emolument, although he has several that are men of ability and well qualified to fill the most important stations in the Government."  
*Isaac Weld (Ireland).*

## OCTOBER TWENTY-SEVENTH.

**1781** The Commander-in-chief answered an address from the officers of William and Mary College, assuring them he would remove the sick and wounded from the buildings as soon as possible, regretting that he had to put them to such unhappy use, for to him "the college was an object of veneration."

**1782** The Continental army went into its last winter quarters, at New Windsor, remaining ten months. Washington reestablished headquarters at the Hasbrouck House, Newburg. "It is a quaint old Dutch homestead," Chastellux said, "the largest room in it, or parlor, having seven doors and but one window." This historic spot was purchased by the State of New York in 1849. A board of trustees has been appointed to watch over and preserve it forever, a monument of the War of Independence.

**1789** President Washington attended the first musical festival in Boston, given in his honor at Kings Chapel. He dined with Governor Hancock and other dignitaries, at Faneuil Hall. In replying to an address received from President Willard and fellows of Harvard, he said: "Your request presented by the Artist Edward Savage, to have him paint my portrait for the Hall of Philosophy, of your great university, was granted and he is now engaged in painting it."

"Thy glory beams to eastern skies;  
See! Europe shares the sacred flame;  
And hosts of patriot heroes rise  
To emulate thy glorious name.

"Labor awhile suspends his toil,  
His debt of gratitude to pay,  
And friendship wears a brighter smile  
And music breathes a sweeter lay."  
*Oratorio Ode (Boston, 1789).*

**OCTOBER TWENTY-EIGHTH.**

**1776** The Battle of Chatterton Hills, or White Plains, was fought this day. The opposing armies were commanded by Washington and Howe; the entire forces of both sides were present, though only a small number engaged in battle. The losses were about equal. The British were in fine condition, and General Howe lost an opportunity in not taking advantage of the American army, which was depleted by illness.

**1781** Washington wrote: "Our operations against the enemy in this state being concluded it becomes my duty to inform Congress of the future destination of the troops under my command." He sent a large detachment to reinforce General Greene in South Carolina, and appointed General Lincoln to command the troops who were to go northward. "I shall myself return to my former position on the North River."

**1789** The Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati, accompanied by several visiting members of the order from France, called upon President Washington. At Concert Hall a brilliant ball was given in his honor, at which, he says, "there was upwards of one hundred ladies." During his stay of four days the ladies of Boston wore broad sashes of white ribbon, upon which was embroidered "G. W." in golden letters, encircled with a laurel wreath.

"To our political father the faithful page of history is panegyric, and the happiness of his country is the monument of his fame."  
*George Richard Minot (Massachusetts).*

**OCTOBER TWENTY-NINTH.**

**1775** The Commander-in-chief wrote Governor Cooke, of Rhode Island, who had sent Captain Abraham Whipple to Bermuda for powder, his disappointment in the failure of the mission, saying, "It is not in our power to command success, tho' it is always our duty to deserve it."

**1781** Congress resolved, "That two stands of colors from the British army under the capitulation of York, be presented to his Excellency General Washington, in the name of the United States in Congress assembled." The thanks of Congress were voted to Count de Rochambeau, Count de Grasse, and all the officers and soldiers of the allied army. It was also resolved that Congress should cause to be erected at Yorktown a marble column adorned with emblems of the alliance between the United States and France.

**1792** From Philadelphia the President gave instructions to his manager in the event of illness among the servants, to give them careful personal watching as had always been his custom, saying, "My fear is, that the under-overseers are so unfeeling, in short, viewing the negroes in no other light than as a better kind of cattle, the moment they cease to work, they cease their care of them."

"All the world agree that no expedition was ever better planned or better executed. It has made a great addition to the military reputation you had already acquired, and heightens the glory that commands your rank, and this must accompany it to our latest posterity."  
*Benjamin Franklin to Washington.*

## OCTOBER THIRTIETH.

**1751** "This morning arose with agreeable assurances of a certain steady trade wind which after near five weeks of buffing and being tossed by a fickle merciless ocean was gladdening knaws." *Washington's Diary*.

**1775** The navy of the United Colonies was reported by the secretary of the Commander-in-chief to consist of the *Lynch*, Captain Broughton; the *Franklin*, Captain Selman; the *Lee*, Captain Manly; the *Warren*, Captain Adams; the *Washington*, Captain Martingale; and the *Harrison*, Captain Coit.

**1777** At Whitpan, Pa., a court martial, with General Sullivan as president, considered the conduct of General Anthony Wayne at Paoli. The charges against that brave officer were not proven, and he was honorably acquitted. Washington, with great pleasure, approved the findings of the court.

**1789** The President arrived at Newburyport and was received with military honors. He had visited the patriotic seaport town of Marblehead, where, at the close of the Revolution, in proportion to its inhabitants, there were more widows than in any other place. At Lynn he was much interested in the shoe industry, and at Salem, where he passed the night, he attended a ball given in compliment to him.

"Armies were led to the field with all the enterprise of a hero, and then dismissed with the equanimity of a philosopher. Power was accepted, was exercised, was resigned, precisely at the moment and in the way that duty and patriotism directed. Whatever was the difficulty, the trial, the temptation, the danger, there stood the soldier and the citizen eternally the same; without fear and without reproach, and there was the man who was not only at all times virtuous, but at all times wise."

*William Smyth, LL. D. (England).*

## OCTOBER THIRTY-FIRST.

**1753** Major Washington, having this day received his commission, started for Fortle Bœuf, the head waters of the Ohio, with official letters from Governor Dinwiddie to the commandant of the French forces, warning him against trespassing upon the territory of his Majesty the King of Great Britain.

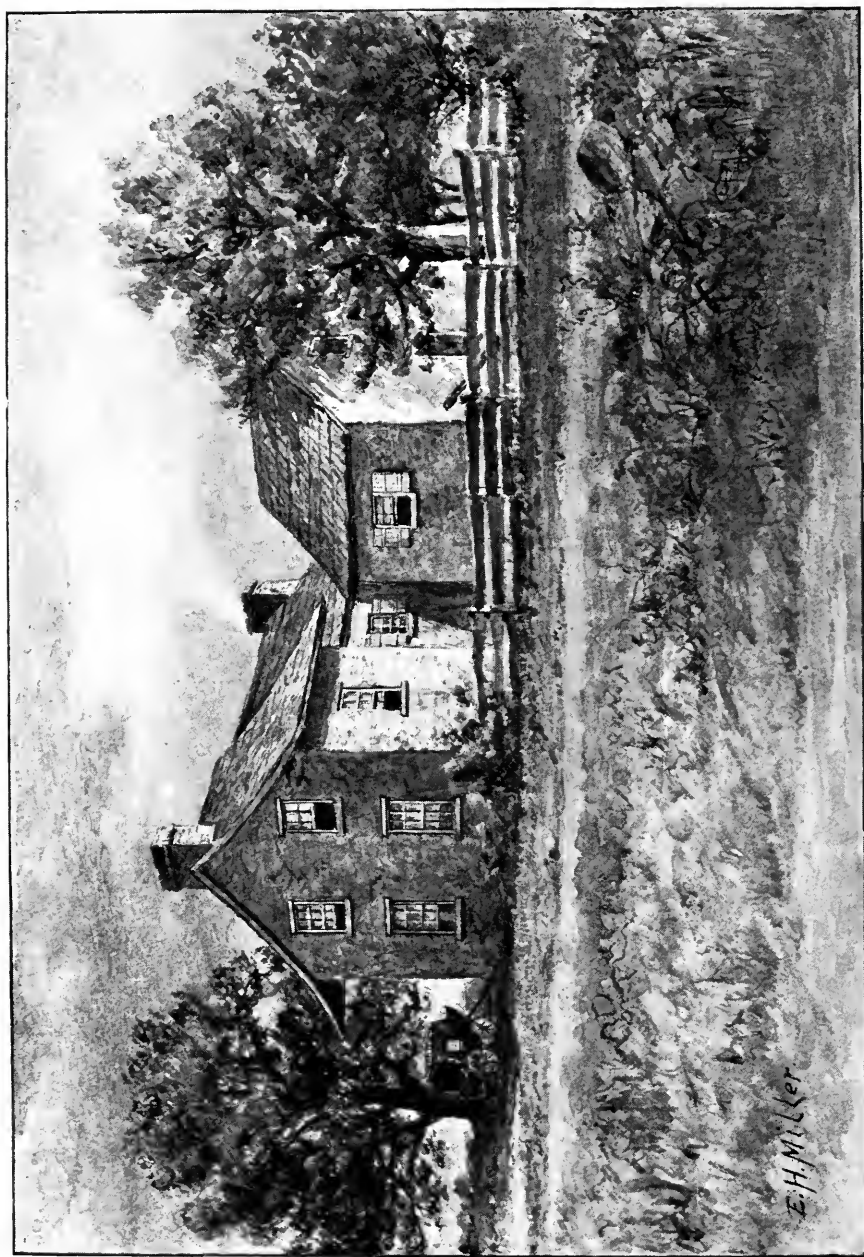
**1775** General Washington, in retaliation for Lord Howe's instructions forbidding any citizen of Boston to leave the city under pain of military execution, ordered the seizure of all officials unfriendly to the American cause, in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island.

**1783** General and Mrs. Washington, and many other distinguished people, attended the services in Princeton College Chapel, in celebration and thanksgiving for the signing, at Versailles, September 3d, of the "Definitive Treaty of Peace" between the United States and Great Britain. The official Proclamation of Peace was the signal for rejoicing that beggars description.

"The defects of great natures have in them an irradiating property which fixes and fastens the eyes of the world upon them. George Washington by the very equability of his exalted nature is deprived of this vulgar fascination, for so I may almost call it—the fascination of contrast, of the alternate glare and gloom. But every human heart is filled with deep and reverential admiration for the man. Happy the Republic which has such a founder to commemorate. The destiny of that people ought indeed to be great, ought indeed to be noble and beneficent, of whom George Washington is even the highest type."

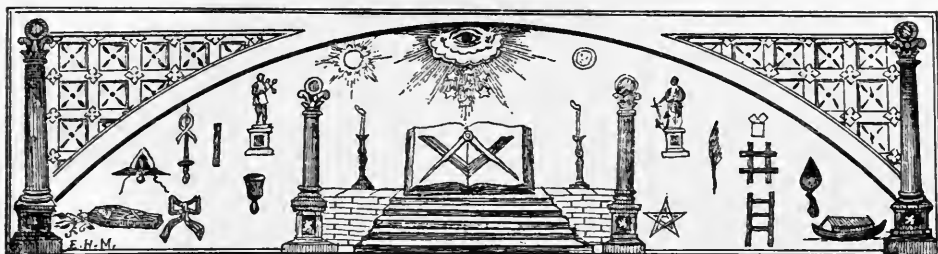
*Justin McCarthy (Ireland).*





COLONEL WASHINGTON'S HEADQUARTERS, CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND, 1757.

After an old print.



## NOVEMBER FIRST.

**1777** General Washington inclosed to the president of Congress the letter of Governor Clinton, giving in detail the ravages of the troops under Vaughn who sailed up the Hudson on vessels commanded by Sir James Wallace. Landing at Kingston, they burned and utterly destroyed the town, the torch being applied by General Vaughn.

**1779** The Commander-in-chief wrote to Edmund Pendleton that the British had concentrated their forces at New York, called their troops from Rhode Island, and abandoned Stony Point. This fort had been reoccupied by the British since it was captured and dismantled by General Wayne in the memorable assault of July 16th. The site, which had been considered impregnable until taken by "Mad Anthony," continued to be a bone of contention.

**1789** President Washington, after breakfasting with Senator Tristram Dalton, left for Portsmouth. He was received at the State line by President Sullivan of New Hampshire, and many other State dignitaries. This day being Sunday, he attended the Episcopal Church in the morning, and in the afternoon listened to a sermon by the Congregational pastor, the eloquent Joseph Buckminster, D. D. At both services he was conducted to his pew with unusual ceremony by the marshal of the district and two churchwardens.

**1791** To his orphan niece Harriet, Washington wrote: "You are now to learn your fortune is small. Supply the want of it, then, with a well cultivated mind, with disposition to industry and frugality, with gentleness of manners, obliging temper, and such qualifications as will attract notice, and recommend you to a happy establishment for life." When he placed her under the care of his sister, he said: "Harriet has sense enough, but no disposition to industry nor to be careful of her clothes. Your example and admonition may with proper restraints overcome it. She is young and with good advice, may yet make a fine woman."

"Welcome, he comes, the hero comes,  
Sound, sound your trumpets—beat your  
drums,  
From port to port let cannon roar  
His welcome to New England's shore,  
Welcome, welcome, welcome, welcome,  
Welcome to New England's shore.

"Prepare, prepare, your songs prepare,  
Loudly, loudly send the echoing air.  
From pole to pole his praise resound,  
For virtue is with glory crowned,  
For virtue is with glory crowned,  
Virtue is with glory crowned."  
*Essex Journal (November 1, 1789).*

**NOVEMBER SECOND.**

**1783** Washington, in his farewell to the army, written at the Berrien House headquarters, Rocky Hill, said: "To the various branches of the army, the General takes this last and solemn opportunity of professing his inviolable attachment and friendship. He can only again offer in their behalf his recommendations to their grateful country and his prayers to the God of Armies. May ample justice be done them here, and may the choicest of Heaven's favors, both here and hereafter attend those who, under the divine auspices, have secured innumerable blessings for others. With these wishes and this benediction, the Commander-in-chief is about to retire from service. The curtain of separation will soon be drawn, and the military scene to him will be closed forever."

**1789** At Portsmouth a barge excursion down the harbor was arranged for the entertainment of the President. The seamen were dressed in white, and the house of Captain John Blunt, at Little Harbor, was pointed out—the stanch old salt who was at the helm that December night in 1776 when Washington crossed the Delaware. The party landed at Kittery, and Washington wrote: "Having lines, we proceeded to the fishing banks, a little without the harbor, and fished for cod." He dined with President Langdon, and "in the evening drank tea with a large circle of ladies."

"The comparison between what Napoleon and Washington did living, and left dying, of the fruits and consequences of their deeds, would surely be a most striking and useful moral and political lesson on true and false glory."

*Maria Edgeworth (England).*

**NOVEMBER THIRD.**

**1751** George Washington arrived at Barbados with his brother Lawrence, who, now rapidly falling into consumption, was ordered to try that climate. In this voyage of six weeks he was an interested student of nautical matters. This was the only time he was out of the country, and the longest voyage he ever took.

**1788** General Washington notes: "Sat to Madam Marchioness de Brehan for a miniture." This gifted and eccentric woman was, with her brother Count de Moustier, on a visit to Mount Vernon. The miniature was engraved in France; prints were sent to the President. These he presented, with his autograph, to his special friends among the ladies. The impression he gave Mrs. Robert Morris has been reproduced at the Bureau of Printing and Engraving.

**1789** President Washington, at Portsmouth, at the request of the citizens of Boston, sat to Christian Gölager for a portrait, and when completed it was disposed of by raffle, and presented to Rev. Jeremy Belknap. President Sullivan and the Council gave a public dinner to their illustrious guest. In responding to a welcome, Washington proposed "The State of New Hampshire," which called forth great enthusiasm. He wrote: "At half past seven I went to the Assembly, where there were about seventy-five well dressed and many of them very handsome ladies, among whom (as was also the case at Salem and Boston Assemblies) were a greater proportion with much blacker hair than are usually seen in the Southern States."

"His religion became him. He brought it with him into office and did not lose it there."

*Jeremiah Smith, LL. D. (New Hampshire, 1800).*



### NOVEMBER FOURTH.

**1752** Major George Washington was initiated in the rites of masonry at Fredericksburg, Va., Lodge No. 4. By special favor, and in consideration of his character, he was accepted before arriving at man's estate. In the record of that lodge is found, "Received of Mr. George Washington for his entrance £2.3-6." On the third of March following he passed to Fellowcraft, and August fourth to Master Mason. To the end of his eventful life he was a devoted Mason.

**1780** The Commander-in-chief was greatly cheered by the report of the Battle of King's Mountain, and the routing of the gallant Colonel Ferguson and his regulars by the raw mountain militia of North Carolina and Virginia, led by Colonels Campbell, McDowell, Cleveland, Shelby, and Sevier.

**1791** The disastrous defeat of St. Clair by the Indians occurred this day, and was second only to the surprise and slaughter of the British under Braddock. Washington, when giving the general instructions, said: "Beware of a surprise; you know how the Indians fight us." Though almost frenzied at the heavy loss, when the first outburst of distress was over, the President said: "General St. Clair shall have justice; I will hear him without prejudice; he shall have full justice."

<p>"Ere mature manhood marked his youthful brow, He sought our altar and made his vow; Upon our tessellated floor he trod, Bended his knees, and put his trust in God!</p>	<p>"Through all his great and glorious life he stood A true, warm brother, foremost e'er in good; And when he died, amid a nation's gloom, His mourning brethren bore him to the tomb!"</p>
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*Anonymous.*

### NOVEMBER FIFTH.

**1775** The Commander-in-chief, in a general order, sternly rebuked certain officers and soldiers for preparing to celebrate Guy Fawkes' Day by burning the Pope in effigy. He referred to the Canadian Catholics, saying, "At such a juncture and in such circumstances, to be insulting their religion is so monstrous as not to be suffered or excused; indeed, instead of offering the most remote insult it is our duty to address public thanks to these, our brethren, as to them we are so much indebted for every late happy success over the common enemy in Canada."

**1781** General Washington reached the residence of his brother-in-law, Colonel Bassett, at Eltham, thirty miles from Yorktown, to which place his aide, Major John Parke Custis, Mrs. Washington's son and only surviving child, had been removed when attacked with camp fever at Yorktown. He arrived a few minutes before his death, and remained with his wife and Mrs. Custis several days, with loving care superintending the funeral arrangements and sustaining the prostrated wife and mother. He adopted the two younger of Major Custis's four children—Eleanor Parke Custis and George Washington Parke Custis. These children became the pleasure and comfort of his advancing years.

"Whilst he lived we seemed to stand on loftier ground, for breathing the same air, inhabiting the same country, enjoying the same constitution and laws as the sublime and magnanimous Washington. He was invested with a glory that shed a lustre on all around him."

*John Carroll, Bishop of Maryland.*

**NOVEMBER SIXTH.**

**1775** The Commander-in-chief expressed his deep sympathy for the sufferings of the enterprising and courageous citizens of Falmouth, and regretted that it was entirely out of his power to relieve them. This town — now Portland, Maine — was given only two hours by the captain of a British vessel in which to remove its women and children before commencing a destructive bombardment. Notwithstanding the devastation, the enemy did not effect a landing.

**1776** "It is with the utmost astonishment and abhorrence that the General is informed that some base and cowardly wretches last night set fire to the Court-house, and other buildings, which the enemy had left; the army may rely on it, that they shall be brought to justice and meet with the punishment they deserve." *Orderly Book (White Plains).*

**1789** President Washington left Portsmouth on the fourth, passing through Exeter and several small towns, and reached Haverhill, where he remained overnight. Of Exeter he wrote: "A jealousy subsists between this town and Portsmouth, which, had I known in time, would have made it necessary to have accepted an invitation to a public dinner." At Andover he said: "Met with much attention from Mr. Phillips, President of the Massachusetts Senate, who accompanied us through Bellariki, where I dined, and viewed the spot on which the first blood was spilt in the dispute with G. B. on the 19th of April, 1775."

"Brilliant beyond all other names that blaze in the splendor of those days of trial and triumph shines the name of George Washington." *Frances A. Johnston (New York).*

**NOVEMBER SEVENTH.**

**1775** Acting upon the findings of the court, presented by the Commander-in-chief, Congress resolved "that Dr. Benjamin Church be closely confined in some secret gaol in the Colony of Connecticut, without use of pen, ink, or paper, and that no person be allowed to converse with him except in the presence and hearing of a magistrate of the town, or sheriff of the county where he shall be confined, and in the English language, until further ordered by this or a future Congress."

**1777** "Since the General left Germantown, in the middle of September last, he has been without his baggage, and on that account is unable to receive company in the manner he could wish. He nevertheless desires the Generals, Field Officers and Brigade Major of the day, to dine with him in future at three o'clock in the afternoon." *Orderly Book (White Marsh).*

**1784** Washington wrote Jacob Read: "My tour to the westward was less extensive than I intended. The Indians from accounts were in too dissatisfied a mood for me to expose myself to their insults, as I had no object in contemplation which would warrant any risk. To see the condition of my lands, which were nearest and settled, and to dispose of those which were more remote and unsettled was all I had in view."

"A civil war is better than assassination or massacre; it has a system of discipline, it has laws, duties, and virtues; but it must end in military despotism. The example of Washington is solitary." *Sir James Mackintosh (Scotland).*

# NOVEMBER EIGHTH.

**1757** Colonel Washington, attended by Dr. Craik, arrived at Alexandria, and wrote a short note requesting a visit from Rev. Charles Greene. He left the frontier by the order of his physician, and it was more than four months before he was able to resume his command. It was feared that, like his brother Lawrence, he had contracted serious pulmonary trouble.

**1775** In a postscript to Joseph Reed, Washington amusingly says: "A blundering Lieutenant of the blundering Captain Coit, who had blundered upon two vessels from Nova Scotia, just came in with the account of it, and before I could rescue my letter without knowing what he did, picked up a candle and sprinkled it with grease."

**1789** "It being contrary to law, and disagreeable to the people of this State [Connecticut] to travel on the Sabbath day—and my horses, after passing through such intolerable roads, wanting rest, I stayed at Perkins' tavern (which, by the bye, is not a good one) all day—and a meeting house being within a few rods of the door, I attended morning and evening service, and heard very lame discourses from a Mr. Pond." *Washington's Diary*.

"I never knew so constant an attendant on church as Washington. His behavior in the house of God was ever so reverential that it produced the happiest effect upon my congregation and greatly assisted me in my pulpit labors. No company ever kept him from the church."

*Rev. Lee Massey (Virginia).*

# NOVEMBER NINTH.

**1777** General Stirling sent Washington this paragraph from Conway's letter to Gates: "Heaven has determined to save your country, or a weak general and bad councillors would have ruined it." He had received the same extract from the president of Congress, and inclosed both, without comment, to the author.

**1783** At Rocky Hill, Washington gave this order to Captain Bazaleel Howe: "You will take charge of the Waggon which contain my baggage, and with the escort proceed with them to Virginia, and deliver the baggage at my house ten miles below Alexandria. As you know they contain all my papers, which are of immense value to me, I am sure it is unnecessary to request your particular attention to them."

**1789** The President wrote from Hartford to the father of Polly and Patsy Taft, Uxbridge, Mass., where he had remained overnight: "I send to each a piece of chintz, and to Patsy, who waited on us more than Polly did, who bears the name of Mrs. Washington, I send five guineas, being much pleased with their modest and innocent looks. That I may be sure the chintz and money have got safe to hand, let Patsy, who I dare say is equal to it, write me a line informing me thereof, directed to the President of the United States at New York."

"Novalis said that character is the completely developed will. I have always been impressed when contemplating the life of Washington, with the fact, that he is an eminent example of character-building. He shows in his life an almost perfect balance of self-control and effective action upon the outer world. Self-control is often strengthened at the expense of outward efficiency. Ready action upon the outward world often conflicts with self-control. In Washington's character we find this fully developed will, which has attained this perfect balance of inward control and outward efficiency."

*William Torrey Harris (Connecticut).*

### NOVEMBER TENTH.

**1775** "The General thanks Col. Thompson of Virginia and the other gallant officers and soldiers for their alacrity yesterday in pushing thro' the water, to get to the Enemy on Letchmore's Point. He is informed there were some who discovered a backwardness in crossing the causeway—these will be marked if they can be discovered." *Orderly Book (Cambridge).*

**1782** General Washington attended at West Point the funeral of Ensign Trant, a brave young Irish gentleman who at the age of eighteen left his country and espoused the cause of America. In two years' service he received the approval of the Commander-in-chief. He was buried in the garrison, and every mark of respect shown his memory.

**1798** Lieutenant-General Washington arrived in Philadelphia to confer in regard to the organization of the "Provisional Army." He was met at the Schuylkill by the Secretary of War, Major-General Hamilton, and an escort of city troops. When he reached the parade-ground he descended from his coach and reviewed "The MacPherson Blues." His approach was the signal for joyous demonstrations from citizens and a parade of veterans and militia.

"The degrees of rank are frequently transferred from civil life into the departments of the army. The true criterion to judge by, when past services do not enter into competition, is to consider whether the candidate for office has a just pretension to the character of gentleman, a proper sense of honor and some reputation to lose." *Washington to Governor Patrick Henry.*

### NOVEMBER ELEVENTH.

**1775** General Washington sent to the president of Congress the act passed by the Council and House of Representatives of the Province of Massachusetts Bay. It was the first law passed by a colony providing for the fitting out of vessels of marque and reprisal, and for establishing a court in which to try and condemn the captured vessels of the enemy.

**1776** The Commander-in-chief visited the Highland forts in boats. The chief object was to see the progress of the work at Fort Montgomery and other points. He was accompanied by his staff—Governor Clinton and Generals Heath, Mifflin, Stirling, and James Clinton. General Heath said: "They went as far up the river as Constitution Island which is opposite West Point, the latter of which, was not then taken possession of; but the glance of the eye at it without going on shore evinced that this post was not to be neglected. There was a small work and block house on Constitution Island. Fort Montgomery was in inconsiderable forwardness."

**1789** "Set out about sunrise, and took the upper road to Milford, it being shorter than the lower one through West Haven. Breakfasted at the former. Baited at Fairfield; and dined and lodged at a Maj. Marvins 9 miles further, which is not a good house; though the people of it were disposed to do all they could to accommodate me." *Washington's Journal.*

"Washington kept his eye fixed upon the Hudson, and especially upon West Point as the key to the North and the gateway to the South." *Erastus Brooks (New York).*

## NOVEMBER TWELFTH.

**1775** The Commander-in-chief ordered General Sullivan "to delay no time in the seizure of every officer of Government in Portsmouth, who had given pregnant proofs of their unfriendliness to the cause we are engaged in." Washington at Cambridge, perplexed by the delay in furnishing uniforms for the troops, appealed to the colonels to give this important matter their personal attention. These uniforms, if it be lawful to call them uniforms, were rough, "colored brown by domestic industry," and home-made.

**1781** General Washington visited his mother, and in the evening escorted her to a ball given by the citizens of Fredericksburg, to the French and American officers. The following day he reached Mount Vernon, it being thirty-three days since he stopped at his home on his way to lay siege to "the posts of York and Gloucester."

**1799** To the assembly committee Washington replied: "Mrs. Washington and myself have been honored with your polite invitation to the Assemblies in Alexandria this winter; and thank you for this mark of your attention.—But alas! our dancing days are no more. We wish, however, all those who relish so agreeable and innocent an amusement, all the pleasure the same may afford them."

"Washington never violated a single trust. He more than answered the public expectation in every one of his numerous appointments. In every one he acquired fresh laurels, and increased the general admiration."

*Oliver Everett (Massachusetts, 1800).*

## NOVEMBER THIRTEENTH.

**1782** General Washington sent to Captain Charles Asgill, the "Act of Congress" setting him at liberty, and said: "Supposing you would wish to go into New York as soon as possible, I enclose a passport for that purpose." This officer, selected as a hostage, in retaliation for the murder of Captain Joshua Huddy, was under sentence of death. Congress pardoned him upon the solicitation of the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, Count de Vergennes.

**1789** Returning from his Eastern tour, the President reached New York on Friday, in time to be present at Mrs. Washington's weekly reception. He had been absent a month. When nearing home (at New Haven) he notes in his journal: "I met Mr. Gerry in the New York stage, who gave me the first certain account of the health of Mrs. Washington."

**1798** Washington gives an amusing account of a call at his lodgings in Philadelphia from Dr. Blackwell and Dr. Logan. The latter, he had reason to conclude, espoused the cause of France. "I asked Dr. Blackwell to be seated, the *other* took a seat at the same time. I addressed *all* my conversation to Dr. Blackwell, the *other* all his to me, to which I only gave negative or affirmative answers as laconically as I could, excepting asking how Mrs. Logan did."

"In his policy abroad Washington was impartial — firm and vigilant, mild and pacific, but he could be war-like. His policy at home, his intercourse with his cabinet and other coördinate branches of Government was frank — open and ingenuous." *Charles W. Hanson (Maryland).*

### NOVEMBER FOURTEENTH.

**1777** In a letter to John Parke Custis, Washington said: "It is much to be wished that a remedy could be applied to the depreciation of our currency. I know of no person better qualified to do this than Colonel Mason, and shall be very happy to hear that he has taken it in hand. Long have I been persuaded of the indispensable necessity of a tax for the purpose of sinking the paper money, and why it has been delayed, better politicians than I must account for."

**1781** From Mount Vernon, Washington wrote Lafayette: "Not till the 5th instant was I able to leave York. Engaged in providing for the detachment that was to go southerly, embarking the troops that were to go northerly, making a disposition of the Ordnance and stores, and disposing of the officers, and other prisoners to their respective places of destination."

**1796** President Washington expressed regret to Attorney-General Lee for his continued absence from the seat of government, saying, "Rely upon it, it is productive of unpleasant remarks, in which I must be involved. It will, indeed is, considered as making a sinecure of the office. To suppose there is no particular occasion for Law officer of the Government at the seat of it, during the recess of Congress, is incorrect."

"Providence left him childless that the nation might call him father."

*Medal, U. S. Mint.*

### NOVEMBER FIFTEENTH.

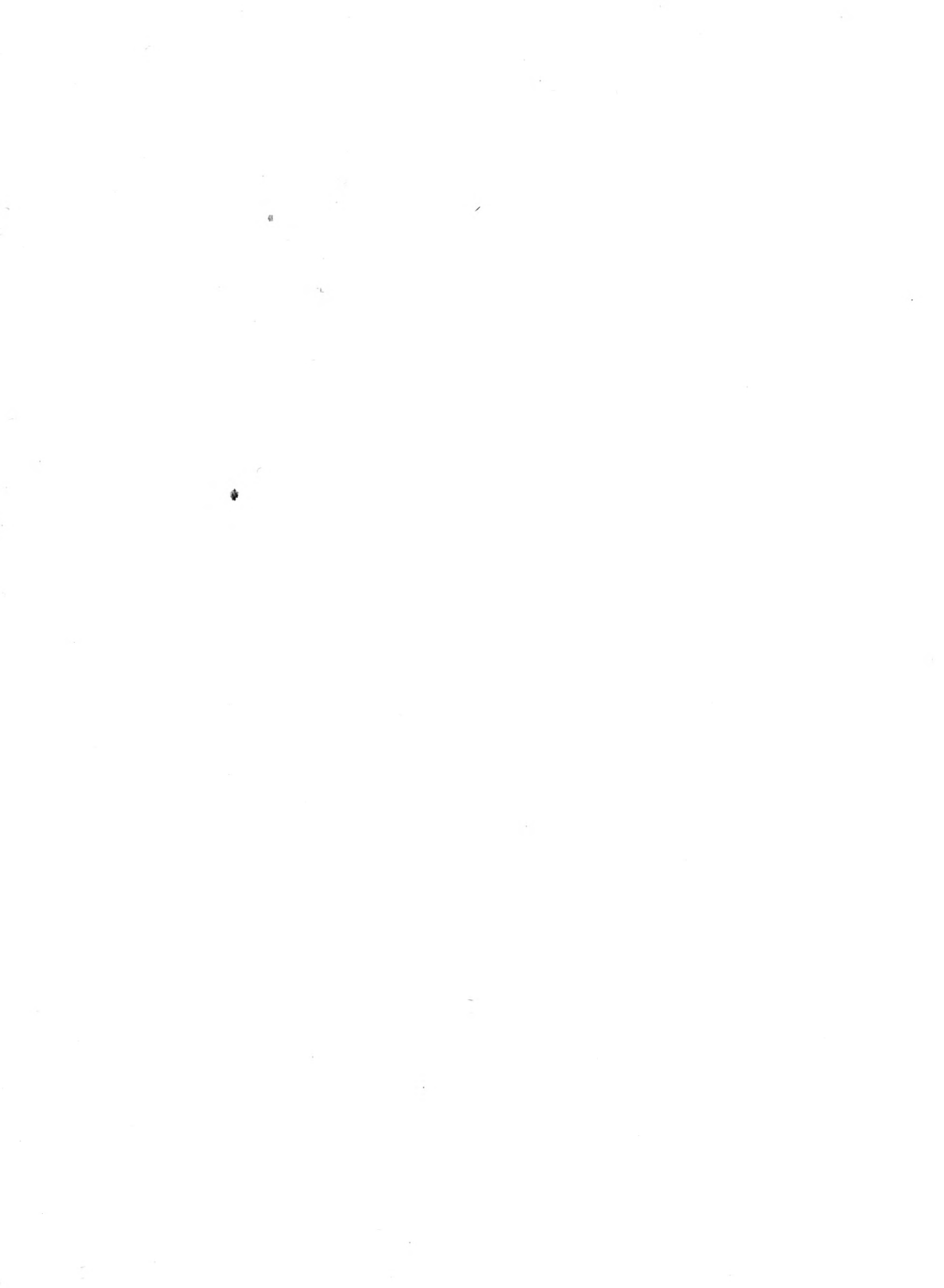
**1751** George Washington notes the following incidents at Barbados: "Dined with Major Clark, at a club entitled the 'Beef Steak and Tripe'—Was treated with a ticket to see the play of 'George Barnwell' acted. The character of Barnwell and several said to be well performed. There was music adapted and regularly performed." Referring to an invitation to dinner from Major Clark, he wrote: "We went, myself with some reluctance, as smallpox was in the family." He contracted the disease, and was confined to his room three weeks, but escaped disfigurement.

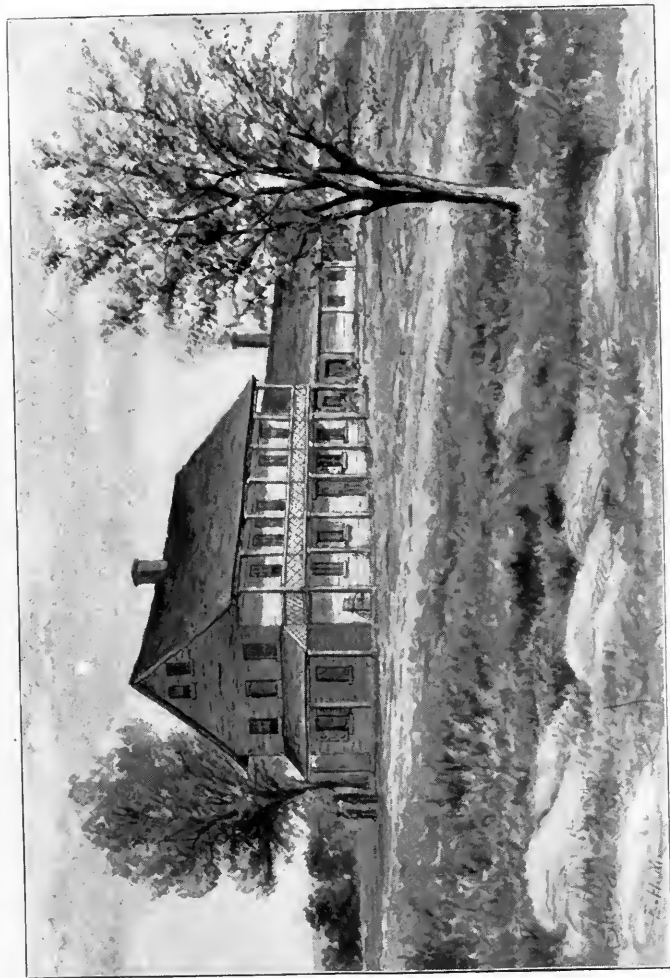
**1783** General Washington received at West Point from the officers on the Hudson an answer to his farewell address. It was announced that officers and men wishing to take leave of their General would be received "in the little back room where he wrote his orders." Here they came—brave men not ashamed to weep, old men not ashamed to become boys.

**1789** "Received an invitation to attend the funeral of Mrs. Roosevelt, (the wife of a senator of this state) but declined complying with it—first, because the propriety of accepting any invitation of this sort appeared very questionable—and secondly, (though to do it in this instance might not be improper), because it might be difficult to discriminate in cases which might thereafter happen." *Washington's Diary.*

"I witnessed the public conduct and private virtues of Washington, and I saw and participated in the confidence which he inspired, when probably the stability of our institutions depended upon his personal influence. Many years have passed over me since, but they have increased instead of diminishing my reverence for his character, and my confidence in his principles."

*Andrew Jackson, President of the United States.*





LAST HEADQUARTERS OF THE REVOLUTION, ROCKY HILL, N. J.



**NOVEMBER SIXTEENTH.**

**1758** Colonel Washington wrote to General Forbes, who was ill in Philadelphia: "The keeping Fort Duquesne (if we should be fortunate enough to take it) in its present situation, will be attended with great advantages to the middle colonies; and I do not know so effectual a way of doing it as by the communication of Fort Cumberland and General Braddock's road."

**1776** From the Roger Morris house the General watched the end of the fight at Fort Washington; saw the flag cut down, and his brave soldiers marched out prisoners. "Fifteen minutes later the British Troops took possession of the very spot on which the Commander-in-chief with the officers, had been standing."

**1784** General Washington arrived at Richmond the previous evening to meet Lafayette. The Virginia Legislature being in session, a committee of five members was appointed "to express to him the satisfaction they feel in the opportunity afforded by his presence of offering this tribute to his merits."

**1794** This day President Washington wrote his old friend, Dr. Craik: "I have nominated your son-in-law (and I congratulate you upon that), Richard Harrison, Auditor for the United States."

"As a warrior and a statesman, Washington was righteous in all he did;—unlike all who lived before or since; he never used his power but for the benefit of his fellow-creatures. He fought

For truth and wisdom, foremost of the brave;  
Him glory's idle glances dazzled not;  
'T was his ambition generous and great  
A life to life's great end to consecrate."

*Percy Bysshe Shelley (England).*

**NOVEMBER SEVENTEENTH.**

**1775** Henry Knox, of Connecticut, who was this day made by Congress colonel of artillery, the first officer of that service, received instructions from the Commander-in-chief, and set out for New York, Ticonderoga, and Crown Point, to procure cannon, mortars, shells, lead, and powder. He returned in January with a fine supply of ammunition. The success of Colonel Knox in this important mission secured for him the warm approval of Washington, as it made possible the attack upon Boston.

**1777** Washington informed Congress of the evacuation of Fort Mifflin on the Delaware, "after a defence that does credit to American Arms." The critical condition of the Continental army at that time was fully understood by him; for in 1787 he notes in his diary (August 19th, Sunday): "In company with Mr. Powell, rode up to White Marsh, traversed my old incampment and contemplated the dangers that threatened the American Army at that place."

**1792** The President said to the commissioners of the Federal Territory: "I agree with you in opinion that ground in such eligible places as about the Capitol and the President's house, should not be sold in squares, unless there are some great and apparent advantages to be derived from specified buildings, which will have a tendency to promote the advancement of the city."

"The national life itself throbs through Washington's transmitted life, and the aroma of his grace is as conscientiously breathed by statesmen and citizens to-day, as invisible atmosphere which secures physical vitality and force." *Henry B. Carrington, LL. D. (Connecticut).*

## NOVEMBER EIGHTEENTH.

**1775** The Commander-in-chief and his general officers spent the day at General Artemus Ward's headquarters, Roxbury. This conference was held for the purpose of locating batteries for the security of their camps, as the bay would soon be frozen, in which condition the Continentals would be more exposed. Lord Howe was expecting reinforcements, and an attack was anticipated. Washington said: "I have long had it upon my mind that a successful attempt might be made by way of a surprise upon Castle William. From every account there are not more than three hundred men in the place."

**1783** From West Point, General Washington wrote to Elias Boudinot, president of Congress: "I have at length the pleasure to inform your Excellency, and Congress, that Sir Guy Carleton has fixed upon the time at which he proposes to evacuate the city of New York. The particulars are more fully explained in his letter."

**1789** "Took a walk in the forenoon, and called upon Mr. Jay on business, but he was not within. On my return, paid Mr. Vaughn, senior, a visit, informal. Sent a Commission as District Judge of South Carolina to the Hon'ble William Drayton, of that state." *Washington's Diary*.

"Before the splendors of thy high renown,  
How fade the glow-worm lusters of a crown!  
How sink, diminished, in that radiance lost,  
The glare of conquest and of power the  
boast.

"While borne to distant lands thy deeds sublime  
Shall brighten as they mark the page of time,  
And ages yet unborn with glad acclaim,  
Pronounce a Washington's illustrious  
name." *Richard Alsop (Connecticut)*.

## NOVEMBER NINETEENTH.

**1776** With a heavy heart the Commander-in-chief wrote to his brother John Augustine: "This [the surrender of Fort Washington] is a most unfortunate affair, and has given me great mortification; as we have lost not only two thousand men that were there, but a great deal of artillery, and some of the best arms we had, and what adds to my mortification is, after the last ships went past, it was held contrary to my wishes and opinion, as I conceived it to be a hazardous one; but it was determined on by a full council of general officers and a resolution of Congress."

**1794** The President, in his speech to Congress, urged "the devising and establishing of a well regulated militia would be a genuine source of legislative honor, and a perfect title to public gratitude. There is a pleasing prospect that the Mint of the United States will, at no remote day, realize the expectation that was originally formed of its utility." John Jay closed his English mission by signing this day a treaty with Great Britain which, while it was intended to secure our possession of the western posts, proved a fire-brand thrown into American politics.

"Though friends, followers and countrymen should betray or abandon me, I will return to my own Virginia, plant the standard of liberty on my native mountains, and calling around me the friends of Freedom, we will fight for our country and our homes, in the enjoyment of our independence, and beyond the reach of a tyrant." *Washington*.

**NOVEMBER TWENTIETH.**

**1781** The Commander-in-chief left Mount Vernon, and stopping in Alexandria, personally thanked the citizens for rejoicing with him in the fall of Yorktown, and for their expressions of sympathy in his great family affliction,—the death of Major Custis,—saying, “Your condolence for the loss of that amiable youth, Mr. Custis, affects me most tenderly.”

**1790** President Washington reminded his manager at Mount Vernon that on Monday the annual church subscriptions were due, mentioning among other items, ten pounds to the Rev. Thomas Davis, rector of Christ Church, Alexandria. This divine assisted at Washington’s funeral.

**1791** President Washington wrote to Lafayette that Mr. John Trumbull had ordered a subscription to be opened in Paris for engravings of his series of pictures of the most important events of the Revolution. “His pieces, as far as they are executed, meet the warm applause of all who have seen them. The greatness of the design, and the masterly execution of the work, equally interest the man of a capacious mind, and the approving eye of the connoisseur.”

“But beyond all his great deeds which can be recorded or appraised, we owe him our gratitude in still higher measure for the example of character which he set before the young Republic in the dawn of its days. Even in a greater degree than for what he did, the nation is his debtor for what he was. . . . No father, in his most ardent prayers for his children, could wish them a better fate than to possess such a heart, such a mind, such a temper as made of George Washington as nearly a perfect man as humanity can furnish.” *John Hay (Illinois).*

**NOVEMBER TWENTY-FIRST.**

**1776** General Washington took his troops over the Passaic River, crossing on Aquackonk Bridge. Fort Lee, when evacuated by the Continentals, was taken possession of by the British. This memorable marching and counter-marching — “the retreat through the Jerseys” — attracted the admiration of European officers. The armies were often so near that the airs played by their respective bands could be readily distinguished.

**1781** The Commander-in-chief arrived in Annapolis, where all business was suspended, and he was greeted with the wildest demonstrations. A chronicler of the day facetiously says: “A few Tories, to expiate their crimes, and shuffle off this opprobrium of their characters, feebly joined in applauding the man, whose late successes had annihilated their hopes, and whose conduct was a satire on their principles.”

**1782** Washington wrote Count de Vergennes, at the court of Versailles: “Captain Asgill has been released and is at perfect liberty to return to the arms of an affectionate parent, whose pathetic address to your Excellency could not fail of interesting every feeling heart in her behalf.”

**1789** North Carolina ratified the Federal Constitution.

“You would have thought the very windows  
spoke,  
So many greedy looks, from young and old,  
Through casements darted their desiring eyes

“Upon his visage; and that all the walls,  
With painted imagery, had said at once:  
‘God save thee, Washington!’”  
*Annapolis, November 21, 1781.*

### NOVEMBER TWENTY-SECOND.

**1777** "The Commander-in-chief offers a reward of ten dollars to any person, who shall by nine o'clock on Monday morning produce the best substitute for shoes made of raw hides. The Commissary of hides is to furnish the hides, and the Major General of the day is to judge of the essays and assign the reward to the best artist." *Orderly Book (White Marsh).*

**1781** General Washington was entertained at dinner by the city of Annapolis. In the evening, "to gratify the wishes of the Fair," he appeared at the Assembly. "When he retired, with one united voice all present exclaimed :

"Unrivalled and unmatched shall be his fame,  
And his own laurels shade his name."

He left the following morning for Baltimore, where he was met by his bereaved wife, and two days later they began their journey to Philadelphia, where Congress was in session.

**1784** The masons of Alexandria, in their application for a charter for their lodge, wrote: "It is the earnest desire of the members of this lodge that our brother George Washington, Esq., be named in the charter as 'Master.'"

"With fervent zeal for your happiness, we pray that a life so dear to the bosom of this society, and to society in general, may be long, very long preserved; and when you leave the temporal, symbolic lodges of this world, may you be received into the celestial lodge of light and perfection, where the Grand Master Architect of the Universe presides."

*Mordecai Gist (South Carolina).*

### NOVEMBER TWENTY-THIRD.

**1776** The Commander-in-chief wrote John Hancock, president of Congress: "The situation of our affairs is truly critical, and such as requires uncommon exertions on our part." He also sent General Mifflin to present to Congress the urgent necessity of immediate succor. Washington reached Newark and remained five days, the advance-guard of the enemy entering the town as the last company of Continentals left.

**1777** Washington announced the surrender of Fort Mercer, saying, "I am sorry to inform Congress that the enemy are now in possession of all the water defences on the Delaware. After the loss of Fort Mifflin, it was found Red Bank could derive no advantage from the galleys and armed vessels. Under these circumstances, the garrison was obliged to evacuate it on the night of the 20th, on the approach of Lord Cornwallis."

**1780** At Preakness, Washington received that brilliant officer, ready writer, and gay bachelor, Marquis de Chastellux. The meeting was mutually pleasant, and the Commander-in-chief invited the French officer to visit on the following day the army at different camps.

"Indeed, it is the manhood pure and simple of George Washington that appeals to the far-spreading, republican sympathy and connects the man with every fiber of our republican civilization. That he was not in any sense a demi-god, nor in any degree a typical hero adds enormous weight to his character in the reckoning of patriotism; it makes him normal, sound, human, and yet superbly developed and majestically poised, a chieftain physically, in mental and moral temperament, a patriot pure and true, a man of the common race but cast in an uncommon mold and of selectest material. To such a man it is easy for the lovers of old-fashioned patriotism to turn with flawless reverence."

*Maurice Thompson (Indiana).*

**NOVEMBER TWENTY-FOURTH.**

**1753** Major Washington arrived at "Loggs Town," chief village of the Delawares, where he remained six days, endeavoring to persuade Shingiss, their Half-King, to furnish him with young men guides to Fort le Bœuf. This brave was a Delaware chief who at first favored the English, but afterward joined the French and became the terror of the back settlements. In 1756 Pennsylvania offered a reward of \$350 for his head.

**1777** As Cornwallis was in Jersey with his troops, it was considered a fit opportunity for attacking Philadelphia. Washington reconnoitered the enemy's lines and found them more strongly intrenched than he anticipated. Eleven officers out of fifteen opposed the attack. General Duportail declared "that in such works with five thousand men he would bid defiance to any force that should be brought against him."

**1789** President Washington went to the John Street Theater, New York, and "The President's March" was played as he entered. For this German air, Francis Hopkinson later wrote those inspiring words —

"Hail Columbia, Happy Land,  
Hail ye heaven born band."

"Io, benchè nato non libero, avendo pure  
abbandonato in tempo i miei Lari;  
e non per altra cagione, che per potere  
altamente scrivere de Libertà."

*Alfieri, Dedication to Washington of "Brutus the Just."*

**NOVEMBER TWENTY-FIFTH.**

**1758** Colonel Washington, in command of the Forbes expedition, raised the British flag on the ruins of Fort Duquesne, and changed the name to Fort Pitt in honor of that great statesman and friend of liberty, William Pitt, first Earl of Chatham.

**1783** General Washington took possession of the city of New York, in commemoration of which event his equestrian statue now stands in Union Square. The army entered first. The Commander-in-chief and the Governor of the State and their suites were escorted by the West Chester Light Horse; General Knox and officers of the army eight abreast; mounted citizens eight abreast; and the speaker of the Assembly and citizens on foot eight abreast. The line of march extended from Harlem to the Bowery.

**1784** General Washington gave Lafayette, then his guest at Mount Vernon, a letter to Dr. Mesmer of Paris, thanking him for the communication in which that scientist had taken some pains to explain "the power and principles of magnetism."

"We give thanks and praise for him whom in Thy providence Thou didst set forth to be the leader of our leaders in council and in arms and the example of all who follow in his high office. We bless Thee that through the gifts and grace with which Thou didst endow him, his name remains for us, as for our fathers, a banner of light, to the lustre of which the nations turn."

*Richard S. Storrs, D. D. (New York).*

### NOVEMBER TWENTY-SIXTH.

**1775** General Washington from Cambridge wrote Lund Washington at Mount Vernon: "Let the hospitality with respect to the poor be kept up. Let no one go hungry away. If any of this kind of people should be in want of corn, supply their necessities, provided it does not encourage them in idleness; and I have no objection to your giving my money in charity to the amount of forty or fifty pounds a year, when you think it well bestowed." Lund Washington was a distant relative and the trusted friend who superintended his estate through the entire struggle for independence, and his frequent letters to him are exceedingly interesting.

**1781** General and Mrs. Washington arrived at Philadelphia, and found the city prepared to give them a magnificent reception. Charles Willson Peale exhibited transparencies illustrative of the glorious victory of Washington and Rochambeau over Cornwallis: which were the *Ville de Paris* under sail, busts of Washington and Rochambeau encircled with stars and fleur-de-lis, with the legend, "Live, Valiant Chiefs!" Great crowds were attracted by this display, and the excited citizens remained on the street a larger part of the night.

"All panegyrick is vain and language too feeble to express our ideas of his greatness. May the crown of glory he has placed on the brow of the genius of America, shine with untarnished radiance and lustre, and in the brightness of its rays be distinctly seen—Washington the Saviour of his Country."  
*Pennsylvania Journal* (1781).

### NOVEMBER TWENTY-SEVENTH.

**1753** Major Washington's journal has this quaint picture: "Runners were despatched very early for the Shannoah chiefs. The Half-King set out himself to fetch the French Speech-belt from his hunting-cabbin." This "Speech-belt" was a contract with the French for these tribes to take up the hatchet against the English, which the Indians determined now to violate, having grown suspicious of their allies.

**1775** The Commander-in-chief wrote to Richard Henry Lee in Virginia: "For God's sake hurry the signers of money, that our wants may be supplied. It is a very singular case, that their signing cannot keep pace with our demands." Three hundred of the poor whom Howe had driven out of Boston were received and provided with food by Washington.

**1784** Washington, in his letter from Mount Vernon to Governor Clinton, said: "I am sorry we have been disappointed in our expectation in the Mineral Springs at Saratoga; and of the purchase of that part of the Oriskany tract, on which Fort Schuyler stands."

"History has not dared to paint him. Delighting to trace the features of her subjects, too often overlooking the minor lineaments, and shrouding her heroes in a blaze of splendor lest we should observe too closely, when she gazed on Washington, dropt her pencil. Of the few who have arisen from among the people to control important popular revolutions, Washington alone has the power of having established free principles and of having perpetuated his work."

*George Washington Bethune (New York).*

**NOVEMBER TWENTY-EIGHTH.**

**1781** The Commander-in-chief appeared before Congress, escorted by two members. He was addressed by the president, John Hanson, who, after congratulating him over the glorious success in Virginia, said: "It is the expectation of Congress that your Excellency would remain some time in Philadelphia, that they may avail themselves of your aid, and that you may enjoy a respite from the fatigues of war."

**1783** "At Cape's Tavern the citizens, who have lately returned from exile, gave an elegant entertainment to his Excellency the Governor, the Council; his Excellency General Washington, and the officers of the army; about three hundred gentlemen graced the feast." *The Remembrancer (New York).*

**1796** From Philadelphia the President wrote to his adopted son, George Washington Parke Custis, the famous "Paternal letter," which has happily been called "Washington's legacy to the boys of America": "T is well to be on good terms with all your fellow students — and I am pleased to hear you are so, but while a courteous behavior is due to all, select the most deserving only for your friendships. True friendship is a plant of slow growth; to be sincere, there must be a congeniality of temper and pursuits."

"May the name of Washington continued steeled, as it ever has been, to the dark, slanderous arrow that flieth in secret; for none have offered to eclipse his glory but have afterwards sunk away diminished, and shorn of their beams." *Thomas Dawes (Massachusetts, 1781).*

**NOVEMBER TWENTY-NINTH.**

**1776** The Commander-in-chief reached New Brunswick with 3,000 men; two brigades left by expiration of time, when the enemy was only two hours in the rear. A retreat was imperative, as an engagement with the greatly superior force of the enemy was too hazardous. He entreated the Governor of the State, "Without loss of time, to give orders to the officers of militia on the roads and ferries over the Delaware to take up and secure every soldier that has not a regular discharge or pass."

**1784** General Washington visited with Lafayette the city of Annapolis; and in the evening they attended the assembly ball given in their honor. The next morning Lafayette accompanied his beloved General beyond the city limits, and when they parted, Washington was impressed with a premonition that it was the last time he would see him. He wrote him: "I often asked myself as our carriages separated, whether that was the last sight I ever should have of you? And though I wished to say 'No,' my fears answered 'yes.'"

"Unshaken 'mid the storm,  
Behold that noble form,—  
That peerless one.  
With his protecting hand,  
Like Freedom's angel stand  
The guardian of our land,—

"Traced there in lines of light,  
Where all pure rays unite,  
Obscured by none.  
Brightest on history's page,  
As chieftain, man and sage,  
Stands Washington!"  
*George Howland (Massachusetts).*

## NOVEMBER THIRTIETH.

**1775** The Commander-in-chief congratulated Congress that on the 28th Captain Manly, in command of the schooner *Lee*, had captured the British brigantine *Nancy*, bound for Boston loaded with army supplies — 2,000 muskets, 100,000 flints, and a brass mortar weighing nearly 3,000 pounds, to which Putnam gave the name of "Congress." This was the most important piece used in the siege of Boston. Washington instructed Aaron Willard, and his assistant Moses Child, in regard to the Nova Scotia mission, "to report the disposition of the inhabitants towards the American cause, the condition of the fortifications and the quantity of Artillery." The inventor of the popular Willard clock was a keen observer, and made many excursions through the colonies with his clock-wagon, though this mission proved unsatisfactory.

**1781** General Washington, at his headquarters, the Chew House, Third Street, Philadelphia, received General Frederick Muhlenberg, speaker of the House of Representatives, and members, and listened to and answered their addresses. This handsome mansion had been occupied by several notables, among them the regretted Don Juan Murilles.

**1785** From Mount Vernon, Washington thanked Samuel Vaughn for a puncheon of Jamaica rum, and added: "Hearing of the distress in the West Indies, in consequence of the Hurricane, I have taken the liberty of asking you to accept a few barrels of superfine flour of my own manufactory."

**1794** "President Washington, at the solicitation of Mr. ——— Collins contributed fifty dollars towards the building of the new Catholic Church at Philadelphia."

"Washington, more than any other man in history, stands as a model for imitation by his countrymen as a citizen, soldier and statesman. In these human relationships no creation of the idealist presents a character more nearly faultless than that which rises before the young student as he closes the records which in less than one hundred years of his death, are accepted as correctly describing his personality and his achievements. Imperfections such as belong to all men must have been fewer and less radical than we ordinarily find them when the transition from the actual to the ideal world is so easily made."

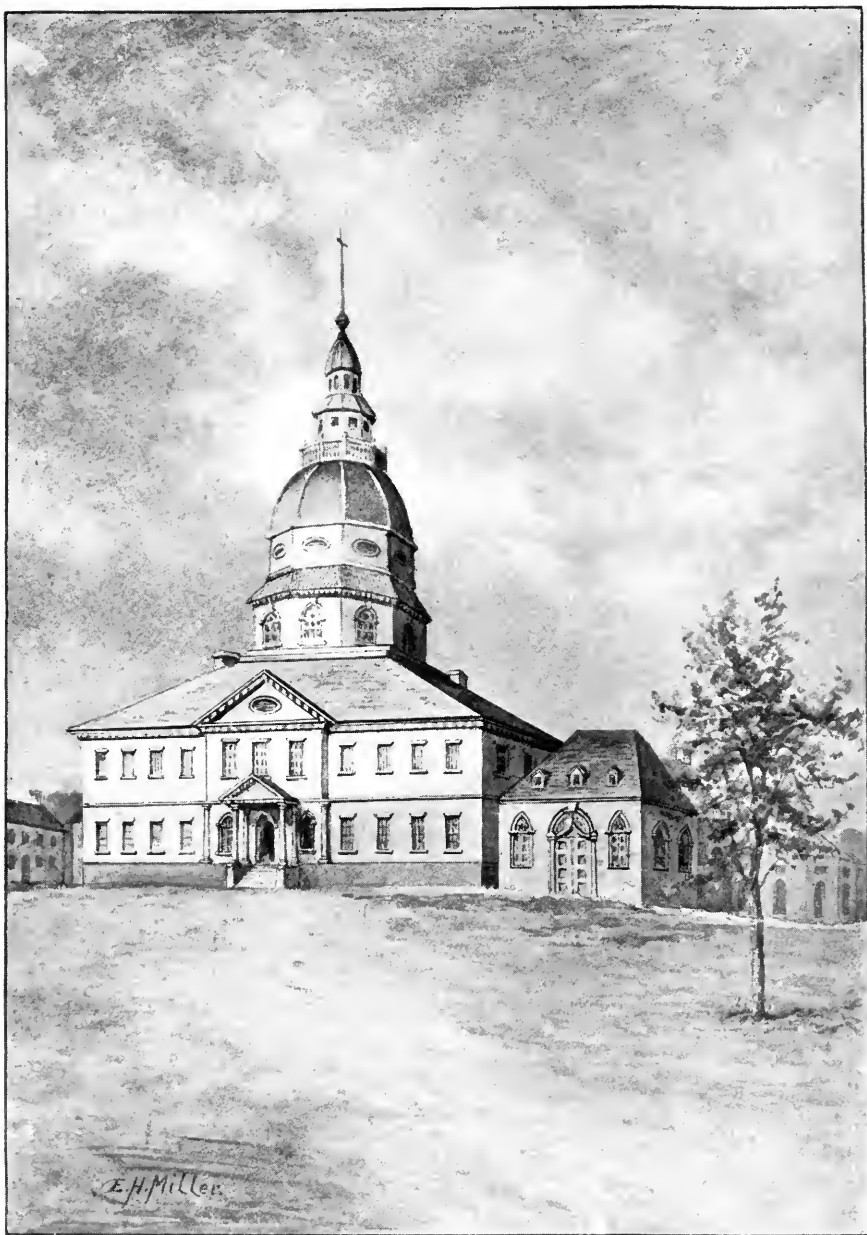
*George Williamson Smith, D.D., President of Trinity College.*



PANELS OF MANTEL AT MOUNT VERNON.







STATE HOUSE AND TREASURY, ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND, 1783.  
After an old print.



### DECEMBER FIRST.

**1768** In Washington's diary is found: "Went to the Election of Burgesses for this county [Alexandria; Fairfax]; was there, with Colonel West chosen. Staid all night to a Ball which I had given." Washington received 185 votes, Colonel West 142, Captain Posey 87.

**1782** General Washington at Newburg gave a bond to Governor Clinton of New York. This document has been recently bought for its autograph; at the same time the MS. of "The Daily Sacrifice" was sold—an arrangement of prayers prepared and used by Washington. In spite of this and other evidences of faith, discussions continue as to whether Washington was a Christian.

**1783** General Washington was a guest at the dinner, of more than a hundred covers, given at Cape's Tavern to Luzerne, the Ambassador of France, by his Excellency the Governor of New York. The pleasure of the occasion was enhanced by the fact that the Commander-in-chief received a letter from Sir Guy Carleton, written aboard the *Ceres* off Staten Island, announcing that the frigate *Asted* had arrived with twenty transports, and he hoped to embark his army on the fourth and take final leave of the country.

**1799** Colonel and Mrs. Edward Carrington, of Virginia, spent two weeks at Mount Vernon, and were the last visitors whom Washington, for any length of time, entertained at his hospitable home. The General was in splendid health and spirits, and had much to interest him in considering the organization of the Provisional army, as he had chosen this efficient officer to be quartermaster-general. Mrs. Carrington, writing of this visit, said they seldom retired before midnight: the General had so much of anecdote to recall, and so many inquiries about old friends. The family was happy over a recent event—lovely Mrs. Lawrence Lewis, *née* Nellie Custis, had become a mother.

"Oh, my country, art thou paling—losing all thy young days' glow?  
 Can'st thou lose thy first love's glory, and thy hero's worth still know?  
 Patriot hearts, do doubts still haunt you, threatening thoughts come crowding on?  
 Sail with me down broad Potomac, past the Tomb of Washington;  
 Feel the impress of his greatness stamped upon the Nation's heart,  
 See each manly brow uncovered, lovely lips in awe apart;  
 Fear not while this reverence lingers with its clear, warm, hallowing light;  
 This must fade from brow and bosom ere can come our country's night."  
*Elizabeth Carey Long (Maryland).*

## DECEMBER SECOND.

**1756** Colonel Washington wrote from Fort Loudoun to Governor Dinwiddie: "The Catawbas are out on the scout with an officer and some men of ours. They proposed to stay only one moon, and then to set out for their nation, with a report of the country and its conveniences to the enemy. It therefore behooves us to reward them well, and keep them in temper. The Indians expect to be sent back upon horses. I will not take upon me to buy horses without your orders."

**1776** General Washington, marching all night, reached Princeton at eight o'clock, and pushed on to Trenton with his main army, leaving General Stirling with two brigades to report the movements of the enemy. The disaffection and fright in New Jersey was so great that the army was not joined by 100 men in their retreat of as many miles. The Legislature and Governor left Princeton, and wandered from place to place, and on the border of the State dissolved this day, "leaving each member to look to his own safety, at a moment when the efforts of legislators would be of no avail."

**1783** The Commander-in-chief most cordially received and answered an address from the "Members of the Volunteer Associations and other inhabitants of the Kingdom of Ireland lately arrived in the City."

"The Pale Faces came, and they said, 'You fought with us; you have forfeited your right to this land and must go away.' But General Washington said, 'Come back and remain in your land and make your homes with us.' Then the Prophet said, 'The white men are bad and cannot dwell in the regions of the Great Spirit, save General Washington.'"

*Peter Wilson (Iroquois), before the New York Historical Society (1847).*

## DECEMBER THIRD.

**1783** General Washington, having ordered fireworks in the city of New York, celebrating the entrance of the Continental army, wrote to General Knox: "The splendid display of fireworks last evening, was so highly satisfactory that I must request you to present to Captain Price, under whose direction they were prepared, and to the officers who assisted him my thanks for the great skill and attention shown in the conduct of that business."

**1793** The malignant fever had subsided sufficiently for Congress to convene at Philadelphia on the day appointed by the Constitution. The President in his address urged the repeal of the tax on transportation of public prints, saying, "There is no resource so firm for the government of the United States as the affections of the people, guided by an enlightened policy."

**1798** General Washington, accompanied by Generals Hamilton and Pinckney, this day attended the second session of the fifth Congress. A crayon portrait drawn by St. Mémin commemorates his last appearance before Congress, and his last visit to Philadelphia. This accomplished French gentleman engraved the head which is much admired.

"Washington inspiring order and spirit into troops hungry and in rags, stung by ingratitude, but betraying no anger, and ever ready to forgive; in defeat invincible, magnanimous in conquest, and never so sublime as on that day when he laid down his invincible sword and sought his noble retirement: Here indeed is a character to admire and revere; a life without a stain, a fame without a flaw. Quando Inverries pavem." *William Makepeace Thackeray (England).*

**DECEMBER FOURTH.**

**1777** From White Marsh, Washington wrote to the president of Congress: "The enemy appeared on Chestnut Hill about three miles distant from our right wing. As soon as their position was discovered the Pennsylvania Militia were ordered from our right to skirmish with their light advanced parties, and I am sorry to mention that Brigadier General Irvine who led them on had the misfortune to be wounded and made prisoner."

**1783** At noon, in Fraunces' Tavern, New York, Washington took leave of his officers. Filling a glass with wine, he drank it and said: "With a heart full of love and gratitude I now take leave of you; I most devoutly wish that your latter days may be as prosperous and happy as your former ones have been glorious and honorable." He requested them to come to him. General Knox being nearest, he grasped his hand and silently embraced him, as he did the entire group. Not a word was spoken as they tearfully withdrew. The Governor, the council, and citizens then bade him farewell. A corps of light infantry was in attendance, and at two o'clock the General passed through their lines, and embarked for Paulus Hook.

**1786** To Clement Biddle, Esq., Washington wrote: "Is the Jerusalem Artichoke to be had in Phila., could as much of the root be got as would stock an acre? I want to bring it in with my other experiments for the benefit of stock."

"Weeping through that sad group he pass'd,  
Turned once, and gazed, and then was gone—  
It was his tenderest and his last."

*Anonymous (1783).*

**DECEMBER FIFTH.**

**1769** The Virginia House of Burgesses ordered: "That leave be given to bring in a bill for clearing and making navigable the river Patomack, from the Great Falls of said river up to Fort Cumberland; and that Mr. Richard Henry Lee and Mr. Washington do prepare and bring in the same."

**1777** Washington by daylight had his troops in line at White Marsh to receive the assault of the British, having been informed, by Lydia Darragh, of Lord Howe's intended surprise. The enemy discovered that a reception was awaiting them; and marched back to their post, and the little Quaker landlady was never suspected of having given the information.

**1793** In his message to Congress respecting the French minister Genet and our relations with France, the President said: "The proceedings of the person whom they have unfortunately appointed their Minister Plenipotentiary here have breathed nothing of the friendly spirit of the nation which sent him; their tendency on the contrary has been to involve us in war abroad, and discord and anarchy at home."

"Washington saved his country by his aid in forming her constitution, and still more by the authority of his opinion in favor of that form of government. By his civil administration he saved the constitution, and with it, the Union. In a most illustrious example of wisdom and firmness, he saved us from French domination."

*Samuel M. Hopkins (New York).*

## DECEMBER SIXTH.

**1755** Colonel Washington, from the frontier, suggested to Governor Dinwiddie: "If your Honor thinks proper to order the act of Assembly for apprehending deserters, and against harboring them, to be published every Sunday in each Parish church, until the people are made acquainted with the law, it would have a very good effect. The community in general err more through ignorance than design."

**1775** "It is with surprise and astonishment the General learns that notwithstanding the information, that was communicated to the Connecticut troops of the relief being ordered to supply their places; that many of them have taken their arms with them, and gone off, not only without leave but contrary to express orders." *Orderly Book (Cambridge)*.

**1790** The President wrote his nephew George upon bringing him to Philadelphia to college: "Every hour misspent is lost forever, and that future years cannot compensate for lost days at this period of your life. This reflection must show the necessity of an unremitting application to your studies."

"Washington's administration was an administration of silent courage, unbending dignity and persevering firmness—not an administration of empty bravado, time-serving timidity and ever-changing expedients. Washington himself was above party. His noble mind held it in abhorrence and his great example threw it into disrepute. Party could not live in his presence. He never rewarded schemes and exertions of party spirit with a smile or an office."

*Charles Caldwell, M. D. (Pennsylvania).*

## DECEMBER SEVENTH.

**1779** General Washington established winter quarters in the village of Morristown, and the main army camped about three or four miles in the country. His headquarters (the Ford House, still standing) are now in the possession of and carefully preserved by the Washington Association of New Jersey.

**1782** Marquis de Chastellux took leave of General and Mrs. Washington, after a two days' visit at the Hasbrouck House. The genial Frenchman said: "It is difficult to imagine the pain this separation gave me; but I have too much pleasure in recollecting the real tenderness with which it affected him, not to take a pride in mentioning it." Of this parting, which proved to be final, Washington wrote: "Never did my heart so cleave unto a man."

**1787** Delaware adopted the Federal Constitution. This state was the first to act.

**1796** President Washington appeared before the two Houses of Congress for the last time; his address was comprehensive, temperate, and dignified. He urged the importance of a military academy; and again dwelt upon a national university—"To bring together the youth from every quarter of our country to assimilate the principles, opinions and manners of our countrymen, and thereby improve the prospect of a permanent Union."

"His rule of justice, order, peace,  
Made possible the world's release;  
Taught prince and serf that power is but a trust,  
And rule, alone, which serves the ruled is just.

"Land of his love, with one glad voice  
Let thy great sisterhood rejoice;  
A century's suns o'er thee have risen and set,  
And, God be praised, we are one nation yet."  
*John Greenleaf Whittier (Massachusetts).*

### DECEMBER EIGHTH.

**1776** General Washington and his army early this morning crossed the Delaware in boats at Trenton, and had barely reached the shore when Lord Cornwallis appeared on the banks of the river. Washington said: "Before I removed to the South side of the river I had all the Boats and other Vessels brought over, or destroyed, from Philadelphia upwards for seventy miles, and by guarding the Fords, I have baffled all their attempts to cross."

**1783** The Commander-in-chief was met at Frankfort by the President of Pennsylvania, John Dickinson, Robert Morris, Generals St. Clair and Hand, and the Philadelphia Troop of Horse, which escorted him into that city. His arrival was announced by the ringing of bells and the discharge of cannon.

**1790** The President, in his speech to Congress, said: "The patronage of our commerce, of our merchants and seamen, has called for the appointment of consuls in foreign countries. The establishment of the militia, of a mint, of a standard of weights and measures, of the post office, and post roads, are subjects which are urged by their own importance." Referring to the application for admission into the Union from the District of Kentucky, he spoke with laudation of the resources of the country and the intelligent and heroic character of her citizens.

"This gentleman alone, by his courteous and friendly demeanor, and still more by his frugal and simple manner of living, is able to unite the parties in America, and make the new Government effective, if such be possible."

*Rudolph van Dossan (Netherlands).*

### DECEMBER NINTH.

**1778** The Commander-in-chief and his troops were for a week kept in rapid motion "through the Jerseys." He said: "Sir Harry's late extra manœuvres up the North River, kept me upon the march and counter march; and employed too much of my attention to investigate his designs or to indulge in more agreeable amusements."

**1780** From New Windsor, Washington wrote Rochambeau: "I have been constantly employed since I broke up my camp at Passaic Falls, in visiting the winter cantonments of the army between Morristown and this place. I have experienced the highest satisfaction in the visits which Chevalier Chastellux, Viscount Noailles, Count Dumas & Marquis de Laval have done me the honor to make me. I have only to regret, that their stay with me was so short."

**1795** The name of Timothy Pickering, Massachusetts, Secretary of State, was sent by the President to the Senate, to succeed Edmund Randolph, resigned. He was the third and last selection made by Washington to fill this position in his cabinet. Charles Lee of Virginia was appointed as Attorney-General, *vice* the late William Bradford of Pennsylvania.

"The legacy he bequeathed to us when he retired from the chair of Government is worthy to be written in letters of gold, or rather to be inscribed on the hearts of an enlightened, free and grateful people. Never could we have had any suitable conception of Washington had we not been favored with his letters which breathe at once the greatness of his views, the ardor of his affection for his country and the resolute firmness and perseverance of his soul."

*Samuel West, D. D. (Massachusetts, 1799).*

**DECEMBER TENTH.**

**1783** The Commander-in-chief received the President and Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania. He wrote from Philadelphia to Colonel James McHenry of Maryland: "After seeing the backs of the British forces turned upon us, and the Executive of the State of New York put into peaceable possession of their Capital, I set out for this place. At Baltimore I will spend one day, and then proceed to Annapolis and get translated into a private citizen."

**1799** Washington completed a drafted plan for the management of his plantation, arranging rotation of crops for several succeeding years. He left valuable notes from close observation and experience in a life devoted to

"The art that calls the harvests forth  
And feeds the expectant nations."

These notes, covering many years, are in MS. now in the Department of State. This day he sent to James Anderson, Esq., an advertisement for Alexandria papers asking that "claims of every kind and nature whatsoever against me, be brought to you by the first of January, that I may wipe them off and begin anew. All balances in my favor must either be received or reduced to specialties that there may be no dispute hereafter."

"Washington's character is to-day passing a thousand crucibles, tortured by fire, and in some few cases, it is to be feared that these crucibles are in the hands of those who would rather find the dross than the gold which underlies it. The feeling which prompted the rustic to vote for the ostracism of Aristides, because he was tired of having one man called 'the just,' still lives and festers in human hearts."

*Phillip Slaughter, D. D. (Virginia).*

**DECEMBER ELEVENTH.**

**1753** After a perilous journey, Major George Washington reached Fort le Bœuf, the French camp on the frontier. He presented despatches from Governor Dinwiddie, in regard to the border infringements, to the commanding officer Chevalier Legardeur de St. Pierre. Of him he wrote: "This Commander is a Knight of the Order of St. Louis. He is an elderly gentleman, and has much the Air of a Soldier." While the French officers held a council of war, Washington made a plan of the fort, even to noting the number of canoes.

**1775** Mrs. Washington, accompanied by her son, John Parke Custis, Esq., and his wife, arrived at Cambridge and were established at headquarters. Captain Manly had captured two prizes. One vessel was loaded with perishable fruit, and to prepare for Mrs. Washington's comfort, Quartermaster Moylan ordered: "You will please to pick up such things on board as you think will be acceptable to her; the General does not mean to receive anything without payment."

**1783** General and Mrs. Washington at Philadelphia took part in the service of thanksgiving which had been recommended by Congress on the eighteenth of October, to be observed upon the ending of the great struggle.

"His work well done, the leader stepped aside,  
Spurning a crown with more than kindly pride,

"Content to wear the higher crown of worth,  
While time endures, First Citizen of earth."  
*James Jeffrey Roche (Ireland).*



## DECEMBER TWELFTH.

**1787** To Colonel Charles Carter, Washington said: "I thank you for your congratulations on my return from the Convention; and with what you add respecting the Constitution. My decided opinion of the matter is that there is no alternative between the adoption of it and anarchy. I am not a blind admirer of the Constitution to which I have assisted to give birth; but I am fully persuaded that it is the best that can be obtained at this day, and that it or disunion is before us." Pennsylvania this day ratified the Federal Constitution.

**1793** President Washington, in writing Arthur Young describing Mount Vernon, which then embraced 10,000 acres, said: "No estate in United America is more pleasantly situated than this. It lies in a high, dry and healthy country; 300 miles by water from the sea, and on one of the finest rivers in the world. Its margin is washed by more than ten miles of tide water. It is situated in a latitude between the extremes of heat and cold, and is sixteen miles from the Federal City which in the year 1800 will become the seat of the general government."

**1799** General Washington rode in a misty rain and snow for four hours over his plantation, and as far as Alexandria, and came home chilled; this was his last ride. He wrote an important letter to Alexander Hamilton, in regard to the establishment of a National Military Academy.

"While others become great by elevation, Washington becomes greater by condescension. Let not his motives be mistaken or forgotten. It was for him to set as great example in the relinquishment as in the acceptance of power."

*John Mitchell Mason, D. D. (New York, 1800).*

## DECEMBER THIRTEENTH.

**1776** Major-General Charles Lee was captured by a troop of British horse, in his headquarters, Mrs. White's Tavern, near Vealtown, N. J. He was three miles from his command, a division having 3,000 men, and had been dilatory about moving with the expedition. Washington at once, "with utmost regret," announced this disaster to the Pennsylvania Council of Safety.

**1783** The Commander-in-chief, en route to Annapolis, had the previous evening attended a magnificent dinner and a ball in his honor, given him at "The City Tavern" by the merchants of Philadelphia. This morning he received and replied to the congratulations of the American Philosophical Society, the clergy, lawyers, and doctors of that city.

**1799** General Washington was attacked by his mortal illness, acute quinsy, arising from cold caught the previous day. Though suffering, he was cheerful and in the library until a late hour. When urged, upon retiring, to try some remedies for his hoarseness, he said: "'T is nothing, let it go as it came." Before sunrise, however, Mrs. Washington became greatly alarmed, and aroused the family. His last writing was an entry in his journal recording, with usual care, notes on the weather.

"Washington has finished life without the slightest diminution of his glory, tranquillity, and happiness. He died on the fields cultivated by himself, in the bosom of his country, of his family, of his friends; and the veneration of America accompanied him to his grave."

*Jacques Mallet du Pan (Switzerland).*

**DECEMBER FOURTEENTH.**

**1782** Count de Rochambeau, after spending a week with the Commander-in-chief, left for France. The incident is pictured in one phrase from that nobleman's pen: "It was here [Newburg] that we took our most tender farewell; that I, as well as the officers who were with me, received from the American army the assurance of their sincere friendship forever."

**1798** General Washington left Philadelphia for the last time, having finished his conference with the President, Congress, the Secretary of War, and General Hamilton in regard to the "Provisional Army." He was in unusual vigor and enjoyed meeting his old compatriots.

**1799** George Washington died at Mount Vernon, after a few hours of great suffering, at half-past ten in the evening. There had been but little hope from the beginning of his illness, and Washington appeared perfectly conscious of his condition; he spoke very little and with difficulty. His devoted wife was by his side; also his secretary, Colonel Tobias Lear, and his two lifelong friends and physicians, Doctors Dick and Craik. His last words were: "It is well."

"His patience, fortitude, and resignation never forsook him for a moment. In all his distress he uttered not a sigh nor a complaint." *Tobias Lear, Secretary of Washington.*

"The dark night of the tomb shall not obscure the lustre of his fame, and when brass and marble shall have fallen to decay, the sweet remembrance of his virtues, passing in proud transmission to remotest ages, shall endure forever."

*Major William Jackson, Secretary of Washington.*

**DECEMBER FIFTEENTH.**

**1753** Major Washington was anxious to leave Fort le Bœuf, having received from Chevalier St. Pierre a reply to Governor Dinwiddie's demand. He passed a day of great anxiety, but finally persuaded the Half-King to start for Venango. He said: "The French were not slack in their inventions to keep the Indians this Day also: But as they were obligated, according to Promise, to give the Presents, they then endeavored to try the Power of Liquor." The sequel showed that he was justified in fearing treachery.

**1775** John Parke Custis, Esq., who had escorted his mother and wife to Cambridge, gave to the Commander-in-chief fifty-three pounds contributed for the relief of their "suffering Brethren in Boston," by the County of Fairfax, Virginia. All eyes and hearts of the Old Dominion were centered on the besieged city; and the mite they could spare in this time of universal distress was cheerfully given.

**1789** "Exercised on horse back about 10 o'clock—Called on the Secretary for the Department of War, and gave him the heads of many letters to be written to characters in the Western Country, relative chiefly to Indian Affairs. Visitors to the levee to-day were not very numerous, though respectable." *Washington's Diary (Philadelphia).*

"The bright effulgence of his character shed its influence all around. Heroes sprang up at his name, and patriotism, kindling into enthusiastic ardor, when foreign or domestic insult threatened his country's honor or its independence, filled his ranks; thousands flew to his standard."

*John Vining (Delaware).*

**DECEMBER SIXTEENTH.**

**1770** Colonel Washington, always devoted to his wife's son, wrote to his preceptor, Rev. Dr. Boucher: "According to appointment Jacky Custis now returns to Annapolis. His mind is a good deal released from Study, and more than ever turned to Dogs, Horses, and Guns; indeed upon Dress and Equipage, till of late he has discovered little Inclination of giving in to."

**1783** The Commander-in-chief, leaving Philadelphia, was escorted for some distance by the City Troop of Horse, Marquis de la Luzerne, and President Dickinson on horseback, Robert Morris and wife in a carriage. At Wilmington in the evening, he was welcomed by a salute of thirteen guns, and met by the Governor and distinguished citizens. The day following he was handsomely entertained at Baltimore.

**1799** The Washington Lodge, Alexandria, Va., called a special meeting, Dr. Elisha Dick presiding, to arrange for the funeral rites of masonry over the remains of their beloved brother, George Washington. A French frigate when opposite Mount Vernon this day tolled her bell in mournful salute to the dead chieftain. The British admiral, though an enemy, rendered the same homage when passing the tomb of Washington in 1814 as he approached the capital city. It has become the custom of the vessels of all nations, and is an act of reverence daily observed.

"Modest and unassuming, yet dignified in his manners; accessible and communicative, yet superior to familiarity, he inspired and preserved the love and respect of all who knew him."  
*Elisha Cullen Dick, M. D. (Virginia).*

**DECEMBER SEVENTEENTH.**

**1777** "The Commander-in-chief, with the highest satisfaction, expresses his thanks to the officers and soldiers for the fortitude and patience with which they have sustained the fatigue of the campaign. Although in some instances we unfortunately, failed; yet upon the whole Heaven hath smiled upon our arms and crowned them with signal success; and we may upon the best grounds conclude, that, by a spirited continuance of the measures necessary for our defence, we shall finally obtain the end of our warfare, Independence, Liberty and Peace."  
*Orderly Book (Gulf Mill).*

**1781** General Washington, having been "adopted" into "The Society of the Friendly sons of St. Patrick," said: "I accept with singular pleasure the Ensign of so worthy a fraternity as that of the 'Sons of St. Patrick,' in this city—a society distinguished for the firm adherence of its members to the glorious cause in which we are embarked." The dinner given in his honor at "The City Tavern" by these enthusiastic Irish gentlemen on the first day of the following January, was in all its appointments considered one of the most elegant of the period. The guests were the brilliant representatives of legislative, diplomatic, and military circles.

"Who like Washington, after having saved a country resigned her crown, and retired to a cottage rather than reign in a capitol. Immortal man. He took from the battle its crime and from the conquest its chains, he left to the victorious the glory of his self denial, and turned upon the vanquished only the retribution of his merey."  
*Charles Phillips (Ireland).*

**DECEMBER EIGHTEENTH.**

**1776** The Commander-in-chief from Keith's farm-house, near Trenton, wrote his brother John Augustine: "You can form no idea of the perplexity of my situation. No man, I believe, ever had a greater choice of difficulties, and less means to extricate himself from them. However, under a full persuasion of the justice of our cause, I cannot entertain an idea that it will finally sink, tho' it may remain for some time under a cloud."

**1787** New Jersey ratified the Federal Constitution.

**1797** In a long letter written by Mrs. Washington to Mrs. Morris, this quaint passage occurs: "The General says he has entered into an engagement with Mr. Morris and several other gentlemen not to leave the theatre of this world before the year 1800, and it may be relied no breach of contract shall be laid to him on that account unless dire necessity bring it about, maugre all his exertions to the contrary; in that case, he shall hope they would do by him as he would by them — excuse it."

**1799** In the presence of relatives, friends, and neighbors, with masonic and military ceremonies, the body of George Washington was laid in the family vault at Mount Vernon. Rev. Thomas Davis of Christ Church, Alexandria, read the service. On a silver plate was engraved the name, date of birth and death; below were the words "Glorio Deo," and above "Surge ad judicium."

<p>"Thou art not dead, thou mighty king of men, Thou rock of strength amid a storm-swept time,</p>	<p>"A hundred years are naught to living fame; And this, a birthday of thy living prime." <i>Edmund Smith Middleton (New York).</i></p>
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**DECEMBER NINETEENTH.**

**1756** To the Speaker of the House of Burgesses, Washington said: "My orders are dark, doubtful and uncertain; today approved, tomorrow condemned. Left to act and proceed at hazard, accountable for the consequences, and blamed without the benefit of defence. However I am determined to bear up under all these embarrassments some time longer, in hopes of better regulation on the arrival of Lord Loudon, to whom I look for the future fate of Virginia."

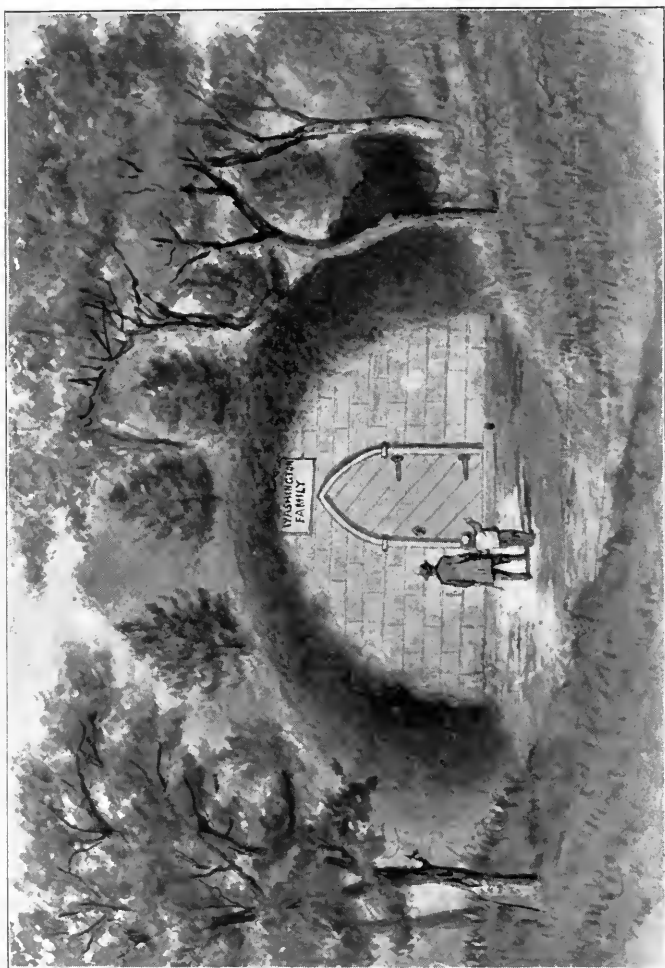
**1776** "The casting of cannon is a matter that ought not to be one moment delayed; and therefore I shall send Colonel Knox to put this in train, as also to have travelling carriages and shot provided, and laboratories established, one in Hartford and another in York."

**1792** The President wrote to the commissioners of the Federal Territory: "I am very apprehensive if your next campaign in the Federal City is not marked with vigor, it will cast such a cloud, and will so arm the enemies of the measure, as to enable them to give it a wound from which it will not easily recover. I am convinced of the expediency of importing a number of workmen from Europe."

"To lose such a man at such a time is no common calamity to the world. With patriotic pride we review the life of our Washington and compare him with those in other countries who have been pre-eminent in fame."

*Samuel Livermore, President of the Senate pro tem. (Dec. 19, 1799).*





FAMILY VAULT AT MOUNT VERNON.  
After an old print.

**DECEMBER TWENTIETH.**

**1780** General Washington wrote to Benjamin Franklin, in Paris: "Disappointed in the second division of French troops, but more especially in the expected naval superiority which was the pivot upon which everything turned, we have been compelled to spend an inactive campaign, after a flattering prospect at the opening of it, and vigorous struggles to make it a decisive one on our part."

**1783** The Commander-in-chief, by letter, informed the Congress of his arrival in Annapolis, and of his intention to ask permission to resign the commission he had "the honor of holding in their service," and requesting to be informed if this should be done by letter or audience. The following motions were adopted: "Resolved, That his excellency the Commander in chief be admitted to a public audience on Tuesday next at twelve o'clock. Resolved, That a public entertainment be given the Commander in chief on Monday next."

**1798** Washington, from Mount Vernon, sent \$500 for certain changes and decorations intended for his home in the Federal city, he having seen one in Philadelphia that pleased him. The residence was near the Capitol, and was burned by the British in 1814; but, the walls not being destroyed, it was rebuilt.

"This weapon, O Freedom,  
Was drawn by thy son,  
And it never was sheathed  
Till the battle was won.

"No stain of dishonor  
Upon it we see,  
'Twas never surrendered—  
Except to the Free."  
*George P. Morris (Pennsylvania).*

**DECEMBER TWENTY-FIRST.**

**1777** The army was encamped at Valley Forge in temporary quarters which were covered with leaves. Washington had offered a reward of one hundred dollars to the officer or soldier who should substitute a covering for the huts cheaper and more quickly made than boards. "The General congratulates the Army, on the arrival of a French Ship, at Portsmouth; with 48 brass cannon,—4 pounders, with carriages complete; 19 nine inch mortars; 2500 nine inch bombs; 2000 four pound balls; entrenching tools; 4100 stands of arms; a quantity of powder—and 61051 lbs of sulphur." *Orderly Book (Valley Forge).*

**1779** From Morristown, Washington wrote Governor Livingston: "The situation of our army at this time makes it necessary we should be very much upon our guard. They have more than double our force collected, and we are mouldering away daily. Sir Henry Clinton cannot justify remaining inactive with a force so superior, and so many temptations to action."

**1783** At Annapolis the Commander-in-chief was occupied Sunday morning in returning such civil and official visits as etiquette required.

"From the beginning of this republic the American view of war was nobler and wiser than any other nation. The 'horrid front' of America was never that of a despoiler or marauder or vainglory seeker. 'I heard the bullets whistle,' wrote Washington to his mother after his first battle, 'and believe me there is something charming in the sound.' There would have been no charm for the noble soul had the cause of the battle been unrighteous."

*John Boyle O'Reilly (Ireland).*

**DECEMBER TWENTY-SECOND.**

**1751** George Washington having sufficiently recovered from smallpox to venture upon a voyage, sailed from Carlisle Bay, Barbados, on the *Industry*, and reached Virginia the latter part of January. He left his brother on the islands, as was supposed in a state of convalescence, but a few weeks proved that the improvement was only temporary.

**1753** Major Washington and party reached Venango, where they met their horses. "This creek is extremely crooked. I dare say the distance between the fort and Venango cannot be less than one hundred and thirty miles, to follow the meanders." *Washington's Diary.*

**1783** Congress gave a dinner, of over two hundred covers, to the Commander-in-chief at Annapolis. At night a magnificent ball was given in his honor by the Maryland Assembly; Washington opened the ball with the charming Mrs. James MacCubbin, gallantly presenting her with an elegant fan. This occasion was graced by "the beauty and the chivalry" of the patriotic old colony, presenting a scene that has never been surpassed even in the gay old town of "Anne Arundel."

"As if the chosen instrument of Heaven, selected for the purpose of effecting the great designs of Providence respecting this our Western Hemisphere, it was the peculiar lot of this distinguished man, at every epoch when the destinies of his country seemed dependent on the measures adopted, to be called by the united voice of his fellow-citizens to those high stations on which the success of those measures principally depended."

*John Marshall, Chief Justice of U. S. (Virginia).*

**DECEMBER TWENTY-THIRD.**

**1780** The Commander-in-chief, in an order from New Windsor to Colonel Humphreys, said: "You will take command of such detachments of water guards now on the river, as you may think necessary, and with them attempt to surprise and bring off General Knyphausen from Morris's on York Island, or Sir Henry Clinton, from Kennedys House in the city; if from the tide, weather and other circumstances, you shall judge the enterprise to be practicable."

**1783** To the Continental Congress George Washington resigned his commission as "Commander-in-chief of the Continental Army, and the French aids." He said: "Having now finished the work assigned me, I retire from the great theater of action, and bidding an affectionate farewell to the august body, under whose orders I have so long acted, I here offer my commission and take my leave of all the employments of public life."

**1799** The sixth United States Congress, at Philadelphia, passed resolutions of sorrow upon the death of George Washington, and appointed the 22d of February, 1800, as a day of official and national obsequies. General Henry Lee of Virginia was selected to pronounce the eulogy upon this occasion.

"Thanks to God, His glory is consummated, Washington yet lives on earth in his spotless example, his spirit is in Heaven. Let his countrymen consecrate the memory of the heroic General, the patriotic Statesman and the virtuous Sage. Let them teach these children never to forget that the fruit of his labours and his example are their inheritance."

*Samuel Dexter, Chairman Committee U. S. Senate (1799).*



### DECEMBER TWENTY-FOURTH.

**1775** General Washington, in his appeal to Governor Cooke, said: "Notwithstanding the great pains taken by the Quartermaster General to procure blankets for the army, he finds it impossible to procure a number sufficient. Our soldiers are in great distress; and I know of no other way to remedy the evil, than applying to you. Cannot some be got from the different towns? Most houses could spare one; some of them many."

**1776** The Commander-in-chief established headquarters at Valley Forge in the house of one Isaac Potts, a Quaker. It was a two-story stone building to which he added a large log-room. The troops were hard at work being "huttet," as it was termed. The camp was derisively named the "Indian Village" by the British, who were passing a recklessly gay winter in Philadelphia, and losing a great opportunity. Washington wrote to the Passamaquoddy chiefs: "I have a piece of news to tell you which I hope you will attend to. Our enemy the King of Great Britain endeavored to stir up all the Indians from Canada to South Carolina against us. But our brethren of the Six Nations and their allies the Shawanese and the Delawares would not hearken to the advice of the messenger sent among them, but kept fast hold of our ancient covenant chain."

"Whereas, the congress of the United States in honor of the memory of General George Washington have this day resolved, that it be recommended to the people of the United States to wear crape on the left arm, as mourning, for thirty days, and that the President of the United States be requested to issue a proclamation notifying them throughout the United States of said recommendation."

*John Adams (Dec. 24, 1799).*

### DECEMBER TWENTY-FIFTH.

**1776** General Washington crossed the Delaware during the night at McKonkeys Ferry, with 2,400 men and twenty pieces of artillery, and marched his army to Trenton. This movement was pronounced one of the most hazardous feats and the most brilliant manœuvre of the war. The place is called "Washington's Crossing," and the boldness and skill displayed has been the subject of tongue, pen, and pencil.

**1781** General Washington, his wife, and family took Christmas dinner with their intimate friends Mr. and Mrs. Robert Morris at their beautiful home on the banks of the Schuylkill.

**1783** George Washington, as a private citizen, surrounded by his family, observed the Christmas festivities at Mount Vernon. He indulged the hope of retirement from public life, and in the congenial occupation of agriculture enjoying the domestic felicity which his happy home afforded.

"Dark were the clouds around our Washington,  
When, on the river's bank that night he stood.  
The clouds without were dark; but darker  
those  
Which gathered o'er his heart.  
But he stands firm. Nor treacherous friend  
nor foe  
Has power to shake a soul so truly great.

"It was the birthday of the Prince of Peace;  
But not as yet his gracious power has  
quenched  
The flames of war; and Washington must  
stand,  
Defender of his country, 'gainst the blows  
Of tyrants who would beat her to the earth;  
His country's saviour, not yet understood."

*Thomas Hill, LL.D., President of Harvard (1799).*

**DECEMBER TWENTY-SIXTH.**

**1753** "The horses became less able to travel every day, and the roads becoming much worse by a deep snow, continually freezing; therefore, as I was uneasy to get back, to make Report of my Proceedings to his Honor, the Governor, I determined to prosecute my journey the nearest way through the Woods, on Foot. I took my necessary papers; pulled off my clothes and tied myself up in a Watch-coat. Then with my Gun in Hand, and Pack on my Back, in which were my Papers and Provisions, I set out with Mr. Gist, fitted in the same manner." *Washington's Diary.*

**1776** The Battle of Trenton was fought this day. It was the most unexpected engagement of the war. Washington surprised the Hessians, took nearly a thousand prisoners, several cannon, valuable munitions of war, and recrossed the Delaware that night. At this engagement the gallant Hessian officer, Colonel Rohl, was mortally wounded.

**1799** At Philadelphia both houses of Congress marched in procession from the Hall of Independence to the German Lutheran Church, and listened to a eulogy upon George Washington, pronounced by General Henry Lee of Virginia. In this address appears the epigrammatic phrase: "The man who was first in war; first in peace; and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

"To his equals he was condescending; to his inferiors kind; and to the dear object of his affections exemplary tender correct throughout, vice shuddered in his presence and virtue always felt his fostering hand; the purity of his private character gave effulgence to his public virtues."

*Henry Lee (Virginia).*

**DECEMBER TWENTY-SEVENTH.**

**1753** "Near Murdering Town we fell in with a party of French Indians who had lain in wait for us. One of them fired at Mr. Gist or me, not 15 steps off, but fortunately missed. We took this Fellow into Custody, and kept him until about 9 o'clock at Night, then let him go and walked all the remaining part of the night without making any stops." *Washington's Diary.*

**1776** The Congress, in session at Baltimore, being profoundly impressed with the gravity of the situation, and convinced that during the pending crisis authority, decision, and vigor were demanded in the field, invested Washington with full power for six months, to raise troops, levy supplies, appoint officers, etc.; in fact, made him military dictator.

**1778** The Commander-in-chief was present in Philadelphia at the Festival of St. John the Evangelist, and marched in the masonic procession. In the sermon preached at Christ Church this day to the brethren, Brother Smith, D. D., referred to Washington as "the Cincinnatus of America." The following year Washington was one of sixty-eight visiting brethren at the American Union Lodge, observing the same festival at Morristown; and in 1782 he celebrated the anniversary with King Solomon's Lodge, Poughkeepsie. The centenary of this event is commemorated by a medal issued by the lodge.

"How truly great must their glory be, which is proclaimed by the savage of the woods, in concert with all the civilized nations of the world."

*Simon Chaudron, French Lodge L'Aménité (1800).*

**DECEMBER TWENTY-EIGHTH.**

**1758** Colonel George Washington resigned command of the Virginia troops to take his seat in the House of Burgesses. This body voted him the thanks of the colony, and his confused attempt at a reply was interrupted by the Speaker: "Sit down, Mr. Washington — Sit down your modesty is equal to your valor and that surpasses the power of any language I possess."

**1778** General Washington wrote to Benjamin Harrison: "If I was to be called upon to draw a picture of the times and of Men, from what I have seen and heard, and in part known, I should in one word say that idleness, dissipation & extravagance seems to have laid hold of most of them. That speculation, speculation and an insatiable thirst for riches seems to have got the better of every other consideration and almost every order of men. I need not repeat to you that I am alarmed and wish to see my countrymen roused."

**1781** The Commander-in-chief, in obedience to command, appeared before Congress in Philadelphia. He was escorted and introduced by two members, and received the address of thanks and congratulation upon the evacuation of Yorktown from President John Hanson. After replying in a few short sentences, he retired.

"There's a star in the west that shall never go down,  
Till the records of valour decay;  
We must worship its light, though 'tis not our own,  
For liberty bursts in its ray.  
Shall the name of a Washington ever be heard  
By a freeman, and thrill not his breast?  
Is there one out of bondage that hails not the word  
As the Bethlehem — star of the west?"

*London Dispatch.*

**DECEMBER TWENTY-NINTH.**

**1753** Major Washington and Mr. Gist "with but one poor Hatchet" succeeded in making a raft to cross the Monongahela River. Washington was thrown out in the middle of the stream between the floating ice, but was saved "by catching hold of one of the Raft Logs." Mr. Gist was so frost-bitten that they remained on an island overnight in this suffering condition.

**1782** Washington wrote to Rochambeau: "It is with infinite satisfaction, that I embrace the earliest opportunity of sending to Philadelphia the cannon which Congress were pleased to present your Excellency. I could not resist the pleasure of forwarding these pieces to you previous to your departure, in hopes the inscription and devices, as well as the execution may be agreeable to your wishes." Rochambeau "instructed the French Minister to keep them till peace, when they may be carried over without danger of being taken."

**1791** The President said to Cornplanter, Halftown, and Great-tree, chiefs of the Seneca Nation: "The murders that have been committed on some of your people by the bad white men, I sincerely lament, and reprobate. I earnestly hope that the real culprets will be secured and punished as they deserve."

"Frederick the Great considered the achievements of Washington between the 25th of Dec. and 4th of Jan., 1776, 1777 — ten days — the most brilliant in the annals of military achievements."

*John Fiske, LL. D. (Connecticut).*

**DECEMBER THIRTIETH.**

**1775** "As the General is informed that numbers of free negroes are desirous of enlisting, he gives leave to the recruiting officers to entertain them and promises to lay the matter before the Congress who he doubts not will approve of it." *Orderly Book (Cambridge).*

**1776** Reinforced by recruits, General Washington determined to return and occupy Trenton, where he found comfortable quarters in "The True American Inn." Owing to heavy ice, the recrossing of the Delaware was dangerous and tedious, occupying two days. The General proudly said: "It was safely effected with the troops that were with me on the morning of the 26th."

**1781** The Commander-in-chief wrote to General Lincoln, the Secretary of War, regarding the "two stands of colors taken at Yorktown": "You have enhanced the value of the trophies with which Congress have been pleased to honor me in their resolve of the 29th of Oct., by the polite and affectionate manner of presenting them."

"For a life devoted to your service, what does Washington deserve? The rising trophied column shall from far attract the admiring eye. The enduring statue, with emulative care, will present to revering posterity his august attitude and awful form. History shall be immortal, as just to his worth. Poesy shall robe him in unborrowed charms. A city after the majestic model of his mind, bearing his name, shall concentrate our national glory, as he does our affections. These a grateful empire will voluntarily pay; but he deserves more; he deserves the only reward he would ever accept, he deserves that you be faithful to yourselves, that you be free, united, and happy."

*Charles Pinckney Sumner (Massachusetts, 1799).*

**DECEMBER THIRTY-FIRST.**

**1753** "I went up about three miles to the Mouth of Youghiogany to visit Queen Aliquippa, who had expressed great concern that we passed her in going to the Fort. I made her a Present of a Watch-coat and a Bottle of Rum; which latter was thought much the better Present of the Two." *Washington's Diary.*

**1758** The officers of the Virginia troops from Fort Loudoun sent Colonel Washington at Williamsburg an address upon his resignation of the command of the Virginia forces, expressing their affection, respect, and best wishes for his future prosperity and welfare.

**1775** The Commander-in-chief, never failing to note a meritorious deed, wrote to the president of Congress: "General Lee has just returned from his excursion to Rhode Island. He has pointed out the best method the island would admit of for its defense. He has endeavored all in his power to make friends of those that were our enemies."

**1788** To Samuel Hanson, Washington wrote: "If I should once more be led into the walks of public life, it is my fixed determination to enter there, not only unfettered by promises, but even unchargeable with creating or feeding the expectation of any man living for my assistance to office."

"Washington is the mightiest name of earth. Long since mightiest in the cause of civil liberty; still mightiest in moral reformation. On that name no eulogy is expected. It cannot be. To add brightness to the sun, or glory to the name of Washington is alike impossible. Let none attempt it. In solemn awe pronounce the name and in its naked, deathless splendor leave it shining on."

*Abraham Lincoln (Kentucky), President of the United States.*

## INDEXES.



## INDEX OF OPINIONS.

The estimate of an individual's claim to fame cannot be established in less than a generation. Utterances most fervent change to faint praise, and feverish expressions of admiration are short-lived. In rare instances, of which George Washington is an example, the enthusiasm of contemporaries is echoed and swelled a century later. The result may with confidence be accepted as the world's verdict.

This record is inscribed from Pitt to Gladstone; from Erskine to Macaulay; from Byron to Tennyson; from Voltaire and Lafayette to Brougham and Thackeray; from Adams, Jefferson, and Jackson to Lincoln, Harrison, and Cleveland; from Jay to Fuller; from John Marshall and Washington Irving to Bradley Johnston and Cabot Lodge; from Laurens to Winthrop, Prentice to Whittier; from Key to Lowell — each bringing an analysis that shall forever burn, an incense before his illustrious character.

In the quotations culled from the vast mass of opinions, — many hundred, — the quaint, even amusing, are not rejected, but have been mingled with the most choice utterances of English, their very crudity making conspicuous their sincerity. The endeavor has been to gather the opinions of men of every degree.

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